

CELEBRATION CLONE WARS BATTLE ROYALE

THE LATEST NEWS ON CELEBRATION JAPAN



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CHEWBACCA VERSUS THE RANCOR! WHO WINS?

NEW
LOOK!

STAR WARS[®]

INSIDER

MORE THAN
THE MOVIES?

The Essential
Expanded Universe

WATTS
ON....

Robert Watts on
the original trilogy

LASER SHARP

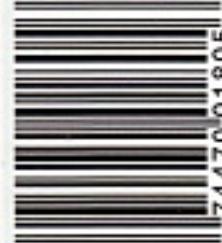
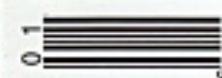
TOP 10 LIGHTSABER
BATTLES REVEALED!



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A year in the
life of Star Wars

ISSUE #101
MAY/JUNE 2008 \$5.99



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STAR WARS

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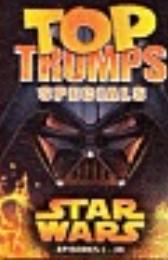




One exclusive 'Luke Skywalker' supercard can be added to the original deck.

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One exclusive 'Luke Skywalker' supercard can be added to the original deck.

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Join the dark side! The Sith return in this action packed prequel to the original series. Who is the more powerful jedi - Anakin Skywalker or Obi-Wan Kenobi? Does General Grievous have better 'battle skills' than Darth Maul? Is there anyone with less 'Brains' than Jar Jar? And is Taftul taller than the mighty Chewbacca? Master your knowledge of the trilogy with this Top Trumps Special Edition title. Fully playable with Top Trumps: Star Wars - Episodes IV - VI.



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One exclusive 'General Grievous' supercard can be added to the original deck.

Star Wars Clone Wars

Set between Episodes II and III of the Star Wars Saga, the Clone Wars animated series is the must-see experience for fans everywhere! Featuring the amphibious jedi knight Ki-Adi Mundi, the evil General Grievous and everyone's favorite jedi master, Yoda, these glow-in-the-dark cards include a Star Wars family tree on the reverse. Celebrate 30 years of the Force in style with this Top Trumps Special Edition title.

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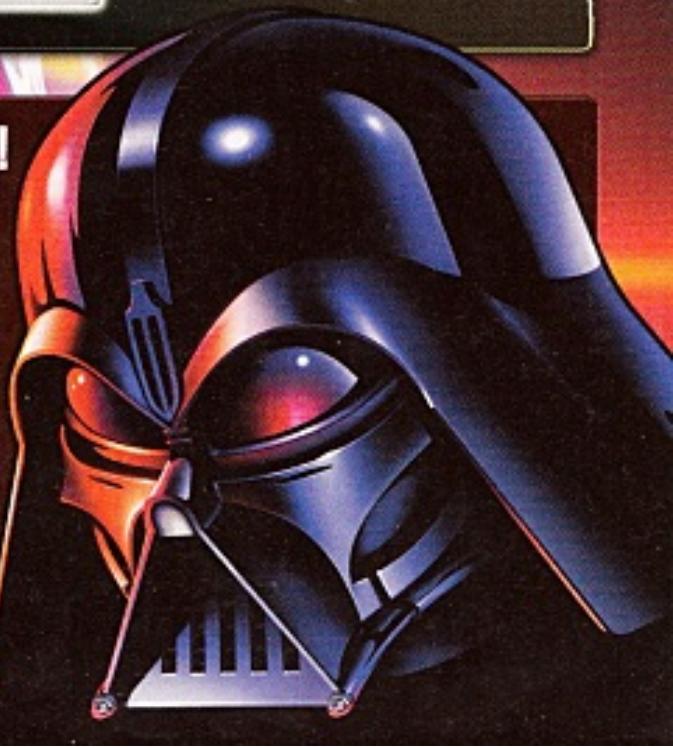
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THIS ISSUE....

"IN THE NAME OF THE GALACTIC SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, CHANCELLOR!" — MACE WINDU

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THE BIG STAR WARS INSIDER INTERVIEW!

BIG
INTERVIEW
IN



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More than action, when a lightsaber ignites it's often an emotionally charged moment!

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You no longer have to bluff your non-movie knowledge, with our handy guide!



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First in a new series on *Star Wars*'s special effects wizards kicks off with Richard Edlund.



TOP
TEN

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INSIDER COUNTS DOWN
THE TOP 10 LIGHTSABER
BATTLES FROM A GALAXY
FAR, FAR AWAY....

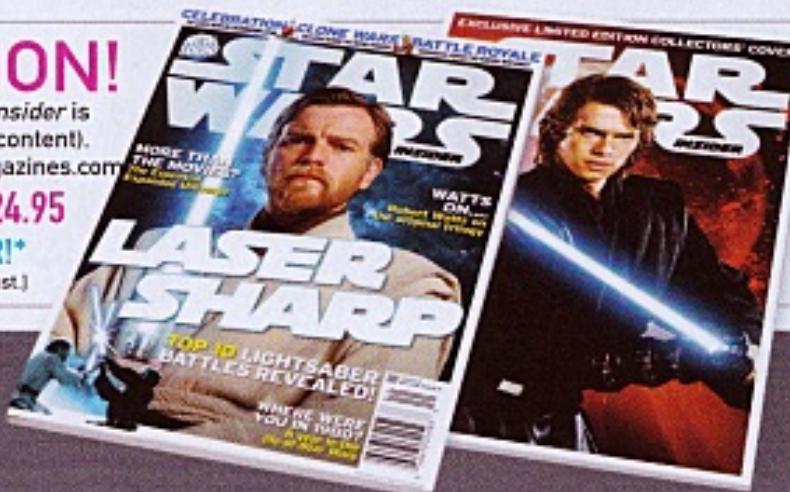
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News and beyond, presented in unique *Insider* style. From *The Clone Wars* movie and TV series, and a new *Celebration* (in Tokyo!) to a unique (and very expensive), but very cool, desk!



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EDITOR'S WELCOME

"I've made a few special modifications myself...."

- Han Solo, *Star Wars: A New Hope*

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Much like Han Solo customizing the *Millennium Falcon*, we took out our hydrospanners and set to work, rebuilding *Star Wars Insider*, making some modifications here and there. What you are holding in your hands is the new look *Insider*. Faster, sleeker, she's got it where it counts.

We felt that with so much fresh, new *Star Wars* on its way — some in the near future like *The Clone Wars* and *The Force Unleashed*, some not quite in our galaxy yet, like the *Star Wars* live action television series — the time was right to implement changes that would echo the exciting new directions that our beloved saga is set to take over the next few years.

After a year of celebrating the 30th birthday of the original movie (and the *Celebration* isn't over yet — check out page 10) we take a look at the Expanded Universe.

Loved by most, feared by some; we present a guide to what you need to know and then some!

It's not all about looking forward though. You'll find an exclusive interview with Robert Watts on page 16.

Robert was kind enough to provide some fascinating insights into the making of the original

trilogy as well as some rarely seen photos from the set of *The Empire Strikes Back*. We also have an exclusive guide to some of the greatest lightsaber battles in the saga, and beyond! Will your favorite be included? If not write in and tell us; there's always room to include your views on what makes *Star Wars* great!

Launching this issue is the fun and dynamic "Blaster" section, packed with familiar favorites such as Steve Sansweet's ever-popular Scouting the Galaxy and Bantha Tracks along with the opportunity to Ask Lobot and even more



FULL THROTTLE

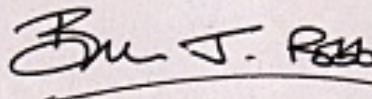
TOP 10 LIGHTSABER FACE-OFFS!

JUMP NOW to page 27 as we countdown the best lightsaber duels in the galaxy!

in-depth examinations of the latest books, comics and games from the *Star Wars* universe than ever before.

We hope you enjoy this first new-look issue and look forward to reading your comments as our bold new design evolves and blossoms, with many fresh, new ideas set to appear in the upcoming months.

Now, go check out this issue. You'll find this baby's got a few surprises!



Brian J. Robb, Editor

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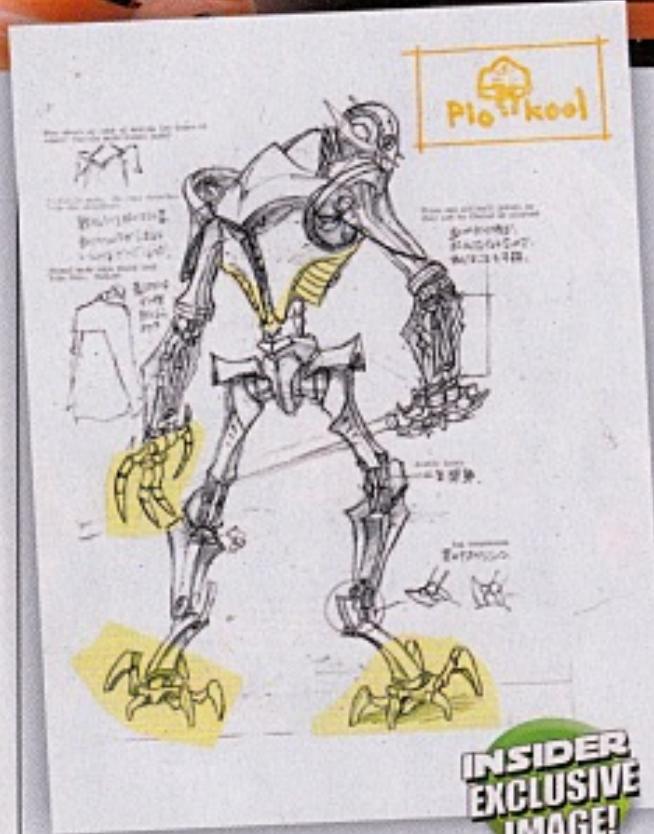
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LAUNCH



INSIDER
EXCLUSIVE
IMAGE!

A bold new era of *Star Wars* entertainment is set to begin this summer when *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, premieres as a spectacular, all-new feature film on August 15, followed by a weekly television series in the fall.

Produced by Lucasfilm Animation, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* takes audiences into the very heart of the galactic struggle between the Grand Army of the Republic

Above: Concept art by Atsushi Takeuchi, who started out doing design work and ended up as a guest director of an episode of *The Clone Wars*. Next Page, Top: Sculptor Darren Marshall translates General Grievous into three dimensions.

and the Separatist forces lead by the sinister Count Dooku.

Expect to see old favorites such as Obi-Wan Kenobi, Anakin Skywalker, and Yoda ignite their lightsabers as they command a hardened legion of (at this point in the saga) loyal clone warriors into battle against a host of enemies including Darth Sidious, Asajj Ventress, and the fearsome commander of the droid armies, General Grievous (see this spread's exclusive images).

Set between Episodes II and III, the movie features the debut appearance of a new character, Ahsoka Tano, a mysterious but lively Padawan who looks set to be a key player in the chapters to come. Also look out for clone trooper Captain Rex, described as a "central figure" in *The Clone Wars*.

Speaking about the project, Executive Producer George Lucas remarked, "I felt there were a lot more *Star Wars* stories left to tell. I was eager to start telling some of them through animation and, at the same time, push the art of animation forward."

Following the theatrical debut, the television series will premiere in the U.S. on Cartoon Network, followed by airings on TNT. Details regarding international broadcasts will be confirmed shortly. *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* showcases an entirely new look and feel to the galaxy far, far away combining the expansive scope of the *Star Wars* saga with state-of-the-art, computer-generated animation. Each week, viewers will see a thrilling, 30-minute "mini-movie"

created by the talented artists at Lucasfilm Animation.

On the decision to release the movie theatrically, Dan Fellman, Warner Bros. Pictures President of Domestic Distribution, said, "This is a breakthrough project. It returns *Star Wars* to the big screen in a completely new way, while beginning an exciting new chapter in George Lucas' legendary saga. We immediately felt that it would be a fantastic theatrical event and are thrilled to be bringing it to moviegoers."

Of the TV series, Stuart Snyder, President/COO Turner Animation, Young Adults & Kids Media commented, "Nothing like this has ever been produced for television. *The Clone Wars* on Cartoon Network will be appointment television for everyone in the family. We're thrilled to be working with Lucasfilm again and very excited to be playing a role in bringing this remarkable adventure to viewers. With a new story each week, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* continues the traditions of thrilling stories, astonishing visuals, and extraordinary music that have always been the hallmarks of the *Star Wars* saga."

With all the powerful storytelling that audiences have come to expect from Lucasfilm, and boasting an eye-popping, signature animation style that has wowed fans at various conventions over the last year, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* opens in North American theaters on Friday, August 15. International dates will be announced soon. ☀

THE CLONE WARS BEGIN....

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS LAUNCHES INTO THEATERS IN AUGUST AHEAD OF ITS FALL TELEVISION DEBUT!

PAD

ALL THE LATEST NEWS, FUN, GAMES AND GOSSIP FROM THE **STAR WARS** UNIVERSE



EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

Check out www.starwars.com/thedonewars for all the latest *Clone Wars* news!



10 ESSENTIAL NEED TO KNOW FACTS ON THE CLONE WARS

■ The Clone Wars were fought between the Republic and the Confederacy of Independent Systems.

■ They began with the Battle of Geonosis and ended when Darth Vader assassinated the remaining Separatist leaders on Mustafar.

■ The Wars ravaged the galaxy for over three years (22 BBY-19 BBY) and resulted in unprecedented massacres and the deaths of most leading representatives from both sides.



■ The Battle of Geonosis was the first time in Republic history that they deployed the Grand Army of the Republic, consisting of 3,000,000 troops.

■ General Grievous' flagship, Invisible Hand, was the most feared ship in the galaxy. It boasted a terrifying arsenal of weaponry—one of its quad turbolasers could produce the equivalent impact of a magnitude 10 groundquake.

■ In the final year of fighting, the Republic deployed MedStar frigates carrying mobile field hospitals known as "Rimsees" (Republic Mobile Surgical Units).

■ When Emperor Palpatine declared the Clone Wars over, he reorganized the clone troopers under the name Imperial stormtroopers and seized control of the galaxy.

...AS THE CELEBRATION HITS JAPAN!

WHY JAPAN?

"Japan is the ideal site for a *Star Wars* Celebration," Steve Sansweet said. "Since there are many Japanese influences in the saga, *Star Wars* has roots in the culture and mythos of Japan, and we look forward to celebrating this unique connection during the event," he added, citing a similarity between the stoic Samurai and Jedi Knights of *Star Wars* as one example.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Makuhari-Messe Convention Center is located in Chiba, between Tokyo and Narita Airport, and is easily accessible by rail, car, and public transportation. There are many hotels near the Center, as well as hotels located in Chiba and along the railway line.

The Lewis+Daniel Group, Lucasfilm's partner in *Celebration Japan*, has information on tickets, travel packages, and hotels. For more info visit: www.celebrationjapan.com

STAR WARS CELEBRATION SET TO CONTINUE IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN(S)!

Fans of *Star Wars* from all over the world have the opportunity to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Saga one more time—in Tokyo, Japan this July. *Star Wars Celebration Japan* will welcome fans to the Makuhari-Messe Convention Center starting July 19, 2008 for a three-day festival commemorating 30 years of *Star Wars* in the Land of the Rising Sun, and looking ahead to great new *Star Wars* events on the horizon. The huge fan party is anticipated to draw a record number of enthusiasts from Japan, throughout Asia, and internationally.

Star Wars has enjoyed a stellar history in Japan, and has become an integral part of the culture since the movie opened there in June of 1978. George Lucas has frequently referred to the inspiration he drew from Japanese director Akira Kurosawa's films, and from other facets of Japanese culture, when he created the *Star Wars* movies. *Star Wars Celebration Japan* will

honor this synergistic relationship by infusing the best *Celebration* traditions with Japanese talent and creativity.

TURNING JAPANESE

Plans are in the works for celebrities from the movies, as well as talent—including Japanese talent—involved in creating many aspects of *Star Wars* through the years, to appear at *Celebration Japan*. Fans can plan to enjoy stage entertainment, unique exhibits, an exhibit hall floor, *Star Wars Art Show*, and *Celebration Store* featuring memorable collectibles and displays. Of course no *Celebration* is complete without showcasing *Star Wars* fans. Expect photo opportunities, costume contests, fan-run panels, and many other platforms for creativity and fun.

"*Star Wars* has enjoyed incredible popularity in Japan for three decades,

and we are honored to show our appreciation to Japanese audiences on this milestone anniversary of the movie's opening there," said Steve Sansweet, Director of Content Management and Head of Fan Relations for Lucasfilm.

"Japanese audiences have been among the most enthusiastic and devoted *Star Wars* fans and we couldn't let this anniversary pass without thanking them. We are very pleased to add *Celebration Japan* to a growing worldwide line-up of *Star Wars* Celebration events."

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

For the latest news and updates on guests, events, and *Celebration Japan* collectibles, go to www.starwars.com/community/event/celebration.

THE STAR WARS FAN MOVIE CHALLENGE

The *Star Wars* Fan Movie Challenge is accepting entries now, and once again AtomFilms and Lucasfilm will partner with Spike TV to showcase the very best movies of the 2008 competition. The 2008 Award Ceremony will take place at San Diego Comic-Con International this July.

With the winning movie chosen by George Lucas himself, the excitement surrounding the *Fan Movie Challenge* is

always high. Aspiring moviemakers enter their original documentaries, parodies, and "fan fiction" extensions of the *Star Wars* universe, and the winners receive worldwide exposure on <http://starwars.atomfilms.com>, as well as one of the Challenge's signature trophies featuring R2-D2 and C-3PO.

Moviemakers will find everything they need to enter their film at www.starwars.atomfilms.com

GET SHOOTING!
The deadline for entries is May 27, 2008. Finalists are scheduled to be announced on June 26 for viewing and online voting to determine the Audience Choice award. Winners are scheduled to be announced at San Diego Comic-Con International at the *Fan Movie Challenge* Awards on July 24.



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CARBONITE COOLNESS!

REST YOUR DRINKS ON JABBA'S TROPHY!

This one-of-a-kind functional art piece was designed and assembled by Tom Spina and Richard Riley of Tom Spina Designs, a New York-based company specializing in the creation of custom sculptures, functional art, and the restoration and display of original movie props.

This desk was designed and fabricated for the home theater/office of Mark Hall, lead singer of the Grammy Award-winning group Casting Crowns (www.CastingCrowns.com).

Based on Hall's specifications, needs, and interests, many concepts were created, eventually yielding a truly unique design which inspired and excited all those involved.

Created over the course of two months, the desk is composed of four main components: two internally-lit side panels, the iconic "carbonite block," and a glass work surface. The side panels feature computer-cut steel housings with tinted acrylic accents backlit by internal lighting. The "carbonite" section began life as a licensed Star



Now you can chill at your desk, in true Solo-style!

Wars prop from the 1990s, which was refitted into a custom fabricated sheet steel housing and embellished with resin fan-created pieces cast from "found objects" such as an old car dashboard! The 1/2" thick glass-work surface is suspended over the desk's frozen prisoner with eight custom metal supports.

Immediately following its debut on the Tom Spina Designs web site, the desk generated incredible interest on the internet. Within 24 hours, countless blogs and tech sites ran stories about the art piece and its "geek chic" appeal. Within five days, the company web site had over 70,000 page requests and over 3.25 million individual image requests. ☺

HOTH AND COLD

FROZEN IN CARBONITE

BANISHED TO HOTH

BOUND FOR KESSEL

HERCULES

A real life laser called HERCULES has been created that boasts firepower akin to the Death Star! Quick! Someone name a military target!



NASA

NASA using ION technology to propel ships deep into space to investigate asteroids? Surely they know that asteroids and TIEs don't mix?



WAITING FOR THE FORCE

We can't wait for The Force Unleashed, so much so that even the slightest delay in getting what is shaping up to be the ultimate Star Wars videogame into our consoles makes us really antsy. But now that the release date has been set for September 16 in the U.S. and September 19 in Europe, we're jazzed!



WHY HAVEN'T THEY MADE...?

■ BLUE MILK

OK, so it would be tough for collectors to keep in mint condition (but hey, they'd find a way!) but surely there's a market for Aunt Beru's most popular lunchtime beverage?

■ AN R2-D2 DRINK SERVER

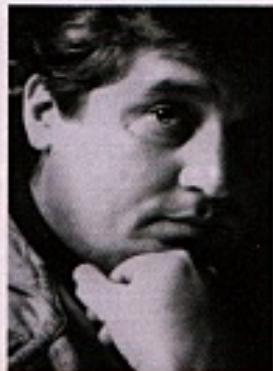
While we are on the subject of liquid refreshments, how about an Artoo that can distribute drinks at your latest soiree?

■ JABBA SOFA

Okay, Leia looked less than comfortable sitting with the evil crime lord, but we are willing to bet good credits that sitting on this Jabba would be a comfortable experience.

■ A STAR WARS TOASTER

What better way to start your day than with a slice of *Star Wars* toast? Just hope it doesn't end up burnt to a crisp, like a certain Sith Lord.

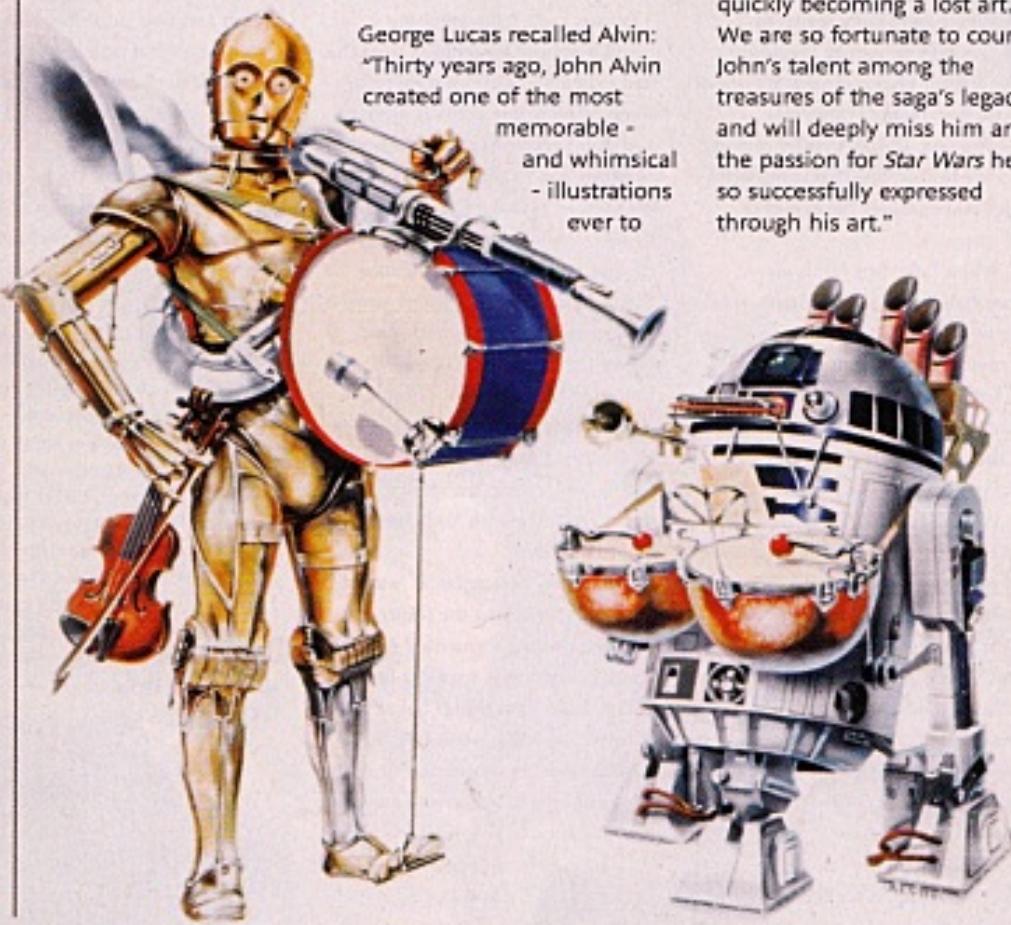


JOHN ALVIN REMEMBERED

John Alvin, who so eloquently illustrated the *Star Wars* galaxy for three decades, sadly passed away from a heart attack recently.

George Lucas recalled Alvin: "Thirty years ago, John Alvin created one of the most memorable - and whimsical - illustrations ever to

grace a *Star Wars* poster. In the years since, he became one of the finest illustrators in his trade, flourishing in a field that is quickly becoming a lost art. We are so fortunate to count John's talent among the treasures of the saga's legacy, and will deeply miss him and the passion for *Star Wars* he so successfully expressed through his art."



WHO'S COOL AND WHO'S COLD IN THIS MONTH'S STAR WARS POPULARITY STAKES?

PICNICKING ON NABOO

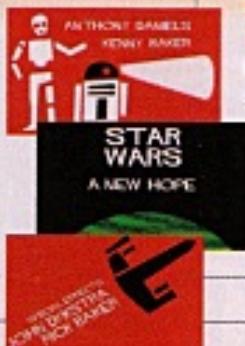
PODRACING ON TATOOINE

RED HOT ON MUSTAFAR



CHRIS PINE

The new Captain Kirk in the forthcoming *Star Trek* movie has admitted the inspiration for the portrayal of his character is none other than Han Solo. We always knew Han was the coolest!



SAUL BASS Vs STAR WARS

For a look at what the title sequence might have been had *A New Hope* been made 20 years earlier go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=z25t-PQDn5A



COMING SOON...

to a theater near you.... *Star Wars* - back on the big screen! Bring on *The Clone Wars*!



MAY/JUNE 2008

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SPECIAL THANKS

Everyone at Lucas Licensing, Steve Sansweet
and all the Star Wars licensees who supplied
product information and imagery for this issue.
And all who helped during the editor's illness.

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adinfo@titanemail.com**STAR WARS INSIDER** (ISSN 1087-0771)
May/June 2008 \$5.99/£2.20 (ISSN 1087-0771)
Star Wars Insider is published eight times per year.
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September, October/November, December by Titan Magazines,
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WATTS THE STORY

Words: Jonathan Wilkins

ROBERT WATTS' ASSOCIATION WITH LUCASFILM BEGAN AS PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR ON THE ORIGINAL *STAR WARS*. HE WORKED ON ALL THREE FILMS OF THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY, AS WELL AS THE FIRST THREE *INDIANA JONES* MOVIES.

Who's That Man?
Robert Watts was
the guy who
brought the *Star
Wars* unit to shoot
in Norway; bet the
crew loved him!



Insider: How did you come to be involved in *Star Wars*?

Robert Watts: I'd worked on a film called *The Wrath of God*. I wasn't a member of the Producers Guild of America, but was allowed to do it because it was shot entirely in Mexico. I was back up in L.A. at MGM, where I couldn't work on the post-production, so I was just handing it over and leaving. A producer rang and said he had heard there was an English production manager in the studio. That was Gary Kurtz and it was just before they began shooting *American Graffiti*, in 1972. He asked me about shooting in England. He then contacted me two years later and asked me to send a resume. I didn't hear anything for another two years, until I was trouble-shooting on a movie in Greece. Fox flew me to see Gary. They had all the usual suspects lined up for the production management supervisor role, but because I'd met him before I got the job!

History repeats itself because the same thing happened years later when I was leaving Lucasfilm. Rick McCallum had met George before, so it was similar to my situation. I re-introduced Rick to George, as I had been re-introduced to Gary, and Rick went on to do a truly magnificent job.

Did you think *Star Wars* would be a big success?

I always thought the movie would be a hit. I expected it would probably do James Bond kind of business, which was top of the range at the time, but I don't think anybody expected it to take off like it did. The film to which it bore the nearest comparison was *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which I had worked on with Stanley Kubrick, but that was a very different world, in which everything was pristine.

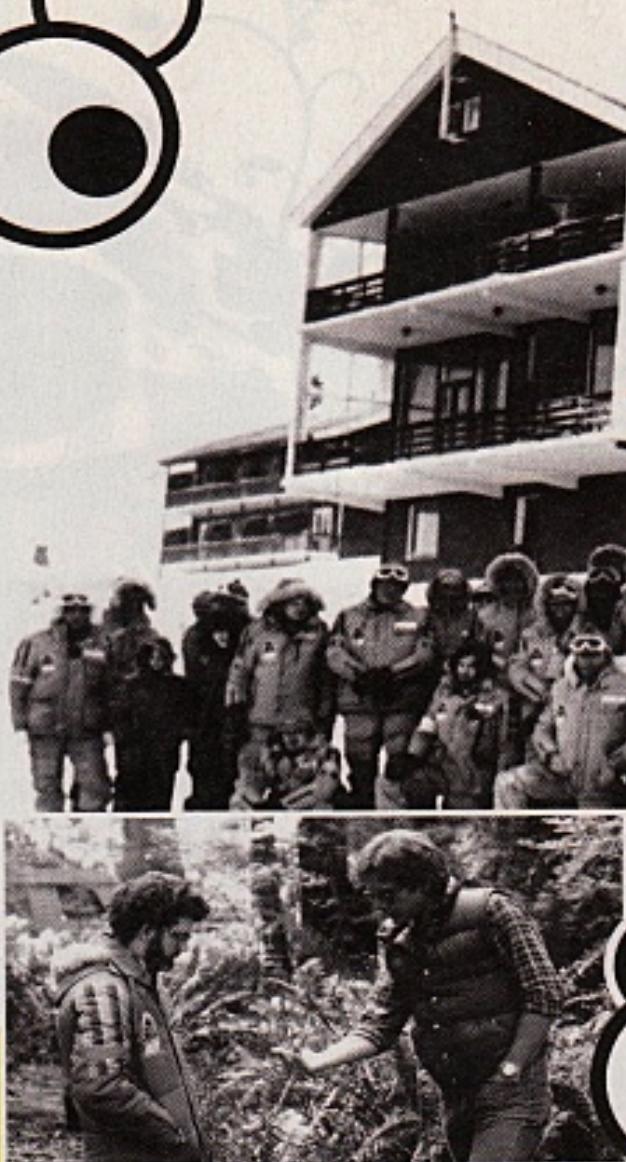
In a sense, the difference between those two movies is that *2001* was what you might call hard science fiction. Stanley Kubrick insisted that everything was correct, that airlocks worked, that there was no sound in space, and so on. *Star Wars* is more of a science fantasy because we didn't really bother with any of that stuff. While everything in Kubrick's film was immaculate, in *Star Wars* it was grubby, so the *Millennium Falcon* needed oil and it didn't always get into hyperspace. I think that sense of reality — albeit in a fantastical setting — is partially what caught the public imagination.

How did you prepare to work on the first film?

George showed us four movies before we began the shoot: *2001*, *Silent Running*, Fellini's *Satyricon* and Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in the West*. *Satyricon* contains all those kind of elements you see in the cantina sequence. He wanted us to get that dusty, used look into it that you find in *Once Upon a Time in the West*. It was a really tough project for George because he hadn't done anything of that size before. He hired the crew members because we had experience with big movies. I talked to George a lot during shooting. It was a difficult shoot, partly because Fox wasn't sure of the film. Luckily, Alan Ladd Jr. stood by us and when the movie opened, it doubled the price of Fox's stock on Wall Street.

Fox never tied up the sequel rights, which shows the lack of confidence it had in what George was doing. So when it became a huge hit, George owned it all!

When we came back to make



Main Photo:
The Empire Strikes Back unit, on location in Norway (courtesy Robert Watts).

Above: Harrison Ford and George Lucas in a very different location for *Return of the Jedi*.

Below Left:
George Lucas

The Empire Strikes Back things were different because we weren't being beaten up by Fox. In fact, George financed it, with his own money, but Fox was distributing.

Can you recall where you were when you realized that the film had been a hit with the public?

I was making a film in Northern Afghanistan. I used to buy *Time* magazine and *Newsweek* as it was the only way to keep in touch. I bought my copy of *Time* one week and I opened it up straight onto a bunch of color pages of pictures from *Star Wars*. I thought, "Bloody hell!" I had no idea it had taken off to such a huge extent. I finally got to experience the phenomenon first hand. Nobody could have predicted what it would become. Certainly I'm blown away that it's still such a huge deal. I've been away for a while and I'd never been to a convention before. I went to *Celebration IV* in L.A. I was sitting backstage when I went on to do a



"Star Wars was grubby, so the *Millennium Falcon* needed oil and it didn't always get into hyperspace. I think that sense of reality caught the public imagination."

panel, and there were Dennis Muren, Richard Edlund, Ken Ralston, Phil Tippett, Ben Burtt, Norman Reynolds, and myself.

I'm sitting backstage and I asked, "Let's start with you Dennis. How many Oscars have you got?" He said eight. I asked the other five. None of them had less than two. I was the only one who hadn't got one!

How did your kids react to dad being involved in *Star Wars*?

My kids visited the set during the filming of the cantina sequence. My eldest son was 14 in the summer when we were shooting *Empire*, and I got him a job with the camera crew. He's now a captain on a Boeing 747. They grew up with it. It's strange. I asked them what it was like, and they said it was just normal.

Was there talk of sequels at the time?

When we started, George said there were three in this particular cycle. The original film was designed to be a standalone picture

if it needed to be. If it hadn't been successful, then there wouldn't have been any more. We took the set for things like the *Millennium Falcon* and we did what's known as pack striking. We sectioned it and stored it on the backlot at Elstree in case we needed it again. We did this for a few sets that we thought would be useful if required for a sequel.

How would you compare working with Stanley Kubrick to working with George Lucas?

They're very different characters. Stanley is portrayed as a reclusive genius, but he was one of the funniest men I've ever met. George is perhaps a little more straight-laced. With Kubrick you'd be pretty much married to him when you started a film. He'd call you up on Christmas Day to discuss business!

George is a very different person. He's very private. In some ways he's shy, but he's treated me with such fairness ever since the

start that I have nothing but praise for him and what he's achieved.

What were your impressions of the largely young cast?

I've done six films with Harrison Ford, who evolved into a huge star! That's a strange thing because when we made *Star Wars* the two most famous actors in it were Alec Guinness and Peter Cushing! Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, and Carrie Fisher hadn't really made any movies of note. Harrison had done a small part in *American Graffiti*, but he was well under everybody's radar. Of course the success of *Star Wars* made them all household names.

Given the great variety of factors involved in making the films, did *Star Wars* productions always stay on schedule?

The second film went over schedule and budget for a variety of reasons. Irvin Kershner is a very particular director and in many ways it's the best of the three



Riding High:
Watts takes a trip
on a tauntaun!

movies. It's the one that had the ability to establish character better because it was definitely a middle episode that didn't resolve. It didn't have to because we knew we were going to do the third one—there wasn't any question. *Return of the Jedi* was bang on schedule and budget. We were very good at it by then!

Return of the Jedi was the last *Star Wars* movie you worked on.

Return of the Jedi was the only one of three where we didn't start on location. We did all of the studio interiors like Jabba's palace first, at Elstree. Once we'd wrapped up in England we went to Yuma, Arizona. We actually stayed in California, just across the state line. We shot the exterior of Jabba's sail barge with the Sarlacc pit. It was almost the most southerly point of California. Then we moved up from there to the most northwesterly point in California, a place called Smith River. Three miles up the road was the Oregon state line. Two very different

and diverse locations, yet both in the same state! We completed the film there and then we went back to do all the bluescreen work with the speeder bikes. That's when Richard [Marquand, director] and I performed our brief roles [as AT-ST drivers]. I didn't know I was going to be in the movie until I came in to work that morning. It was a last minute decision!

Was George Lucas always an active presence on set?

George is very hands-on. He was much more around on the *Star Wars* movies than he was on the *Indy* films. George trusted us and we got on with it. If we were ever in trouble he'd come to help out, but that was very rare. We did lose Harrison for eight weeks on *Temple of Doom*, but Steven and I resolved the problem of shooting around him before George arrived.

Was going back to Tunisia ever an option for the Tatooine sequences?

I don't think it was ever considered. We recreated it in a place called Buttercup Valley. All we needed was that sense of background, but it was a major set construction because we had to create the exterior of Jabba's barge.

We created a fictitious film project called *Blue Harvest*. We had T-shirts that said "Blue Harvest: Horror Beyond"

Imagination." We created a fictitious company. I've still got my T-shirt: I'm told they're worth a fortune! It was all to divert what was quite a rabid fan base and the media, but of course it didn't fool anyone.

The set had to have a fence all the way around it and the fans started hanging onto the chain-link fence like mosquitoes on a net!

It was the first time I got slightly freaked out because I was walking inside the compound and this lady who was hanging on the fence yelled out: "Hey Robert, how's your appendix?"

I'd had acute appendicitis in the middle of shooting *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. There was a book about the making of the film and that was mentioned. So I went over and said, "Oh, it's alright." When I was at *Celebration IV* I met the lady again! She's in the PR business in the movies!

The crew behind the camera are now just as famous as the cast.

It's gone to a level now that's quite remarkable. At *Celebration Europe* for example I did the last panel of the entire event, which was called "Producing the Original Trilogy." We finished and I walked out. There were lots of fans milling about. I hadn't appreciated they'd all been watching me talk, so I got mobbed!

A lot of the fans had "Three Day Adult"

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

THE INDY ADVENTURES

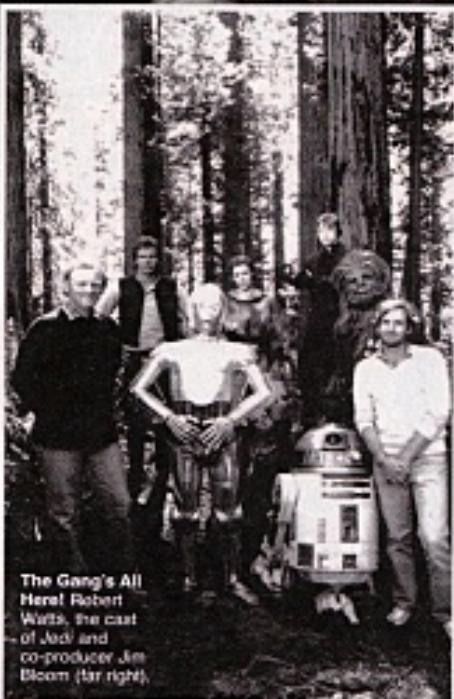
"At the end of *The Empire Strikes Back* we were doing some bluescreen work in London when George said, 'Read this' and he gave me the screenplay for *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. I read it and said, 'This is a very busy script, George.' He said he wanted me to work on the film, but I needed to meet Steven Spielberg. I ended up working on three *Indiana Jones* movies!

"When we were casting *Indiana Jones*, we had Tom Selleck signed to do it, but he'd done a pilot called *Magnum P.I.* that was picked up. We were stuck until somebody realized we had the man for the job in our own backyard: Harrison Ford, who proved to be magnificent in the part.

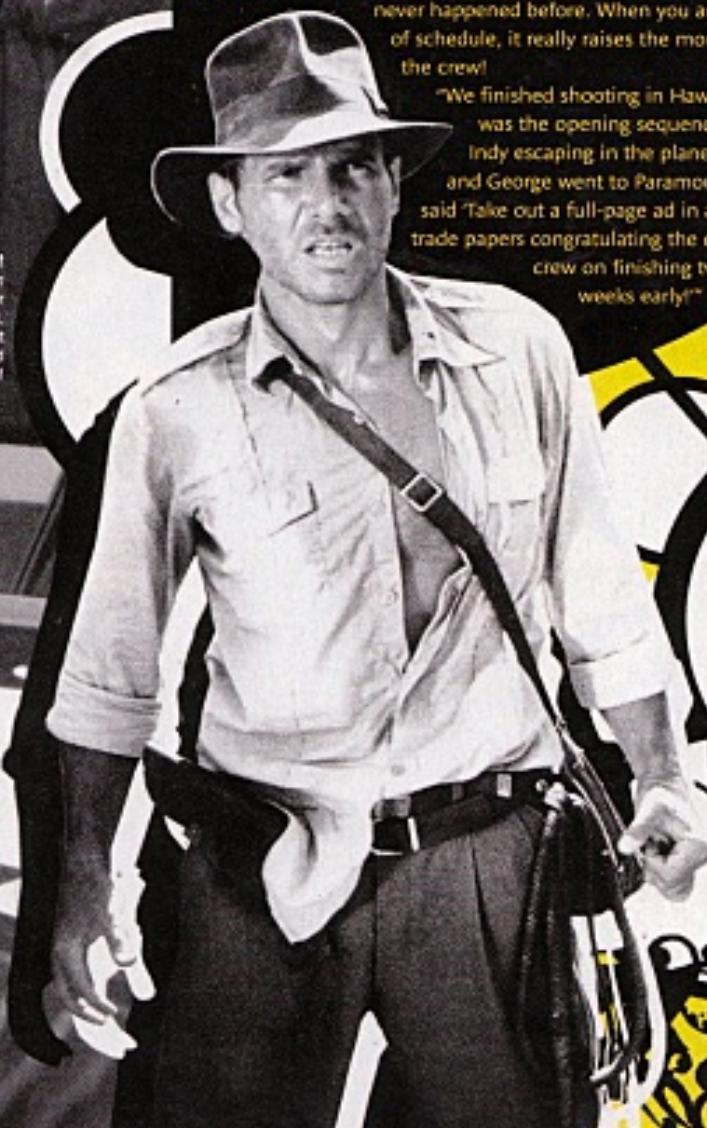
"Steven Spielberg had just come off *1941*. When I met him he was doing post-preview edits. I was concerned because I knew how much *1941* had gone over-budget, so I rang the assistant director and asked what he was like. He said to expect to go over time by 50 per cent. I scheduled the film initially for 23 weeks. I showed the plan to Steven and he said, 'No, I'll do it in 17 weeks.' By that point I was getting even more nervous. But we shot it in 15 weeks! We came in two weeks under schedule. It'd never happened before. When you are ahead of schedule, it really raises the morale of the crew!

"We finished shooting in Hawaii, which was the opening sequence with Indy escaping in the plane. Steven and George went to Paramount and said 'Take out a full-page ad in all the trade papers congratulating the cast and crew on finishing two weeks early!'

Blue Harvest!
Watts with *Return of the Jedi* director Richard Marquand, bringing about *Humor Beyond Imagination*



The Gang's All Here!
Here! Robert Watts, the cast of *Jedi* and co-producer Jim Bloom (far right)



written on the laminate around their necks. So I said, "What happens on the fourth day? Do you turn back into a child?"

Even small kids came up, and because it was Sunday their tickets said "Sun Child" and I said "Oh you're the 'Sun Child' are you?" They looked at me like I was bonkers! They all asked for my VIP tag, I said "No, my grandkids will kill me if I give that to you!" I signed autographs for 40 minutes.

I've signed the odd autograph here and there over the years, but I signed more there than I have in my entire life. I'm not an actor, but my [half] brother is Jeremy Bulloch, who played Boba Fett, and he's doing it all the time. The actors have a more public profile. Most people don't know what a producer does. I say a producer nurtures talent, because he hasn't got any himself!

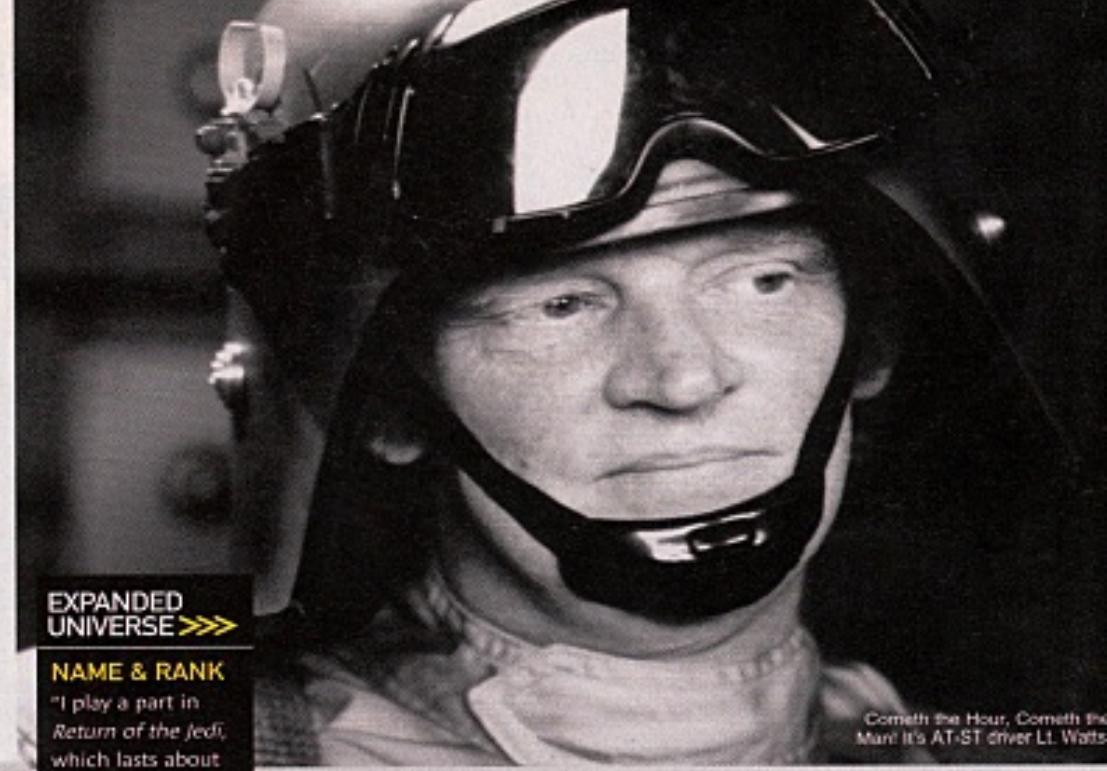
How did Jeremy get the role of Boba Fett?

George used to tell us the story, taking notes and ideas and as he did so, and the character of Boba Fett emerged. The first time I ever saw

**EXPANDED
UNIVERSE >>>**

NAME & RANK

"I play a part in *Return of the Jedi*, which lasts about 28.2 frames in the whole film. I was the only character in the entire series called by his own real-life name and rank (AT-ST driver Lt. Watts). I appeared alongside the director, Richard Marquand."



Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man! It's AT-ST driver Lt. Watts.

"I always thought *Star Wars* would be a hit. I expected James Bond business, but I don't think anybody expected it to take off like it did."

the costume, it wasn't Boba Fett. It was completely white. He was going to be a 'super stormtrooper.' Duwayne Dunham modelled it so we could all have a look at it, but the suit didn't quite fit.

At that point I'd never managed to give Jeremy a job on a film. So I rang him up and said "If the suit fits, the part's yours." He came in and it fit. That was in 1979 and it's still going on, that job! The villains are always popular, but I had no idea that character would be such a fan favorite. Jeremy put a lot of effort into it.

Which is your favorite film of the *Star Wars* trilogy?

Ultimately, it has to be the original *Star Wars*. The opening shot of the Rebel blockade runner, followed by that Star Destroyer was simply breathtaking. The sheer energy of the thing... it was so groundbreaking and new. ☺





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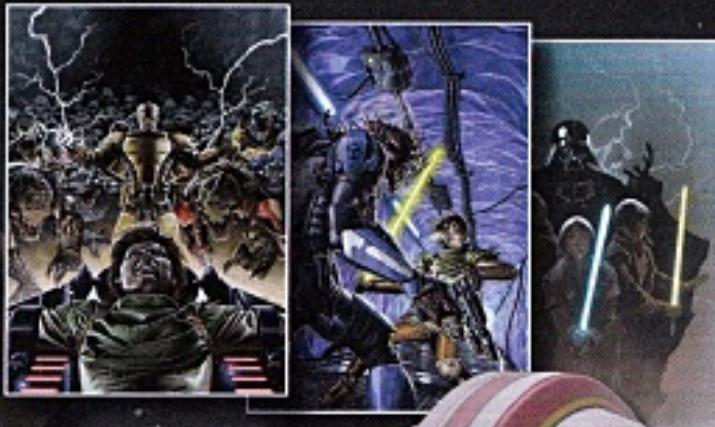
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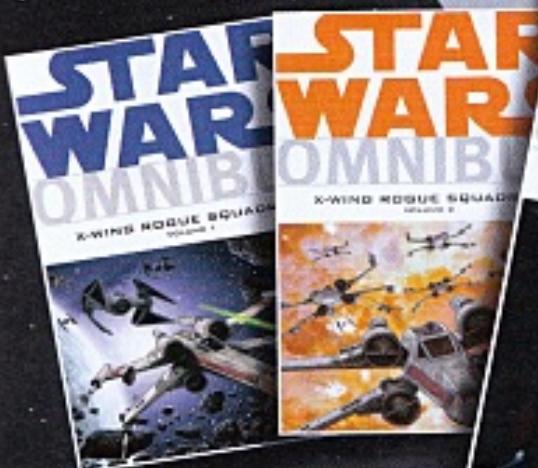
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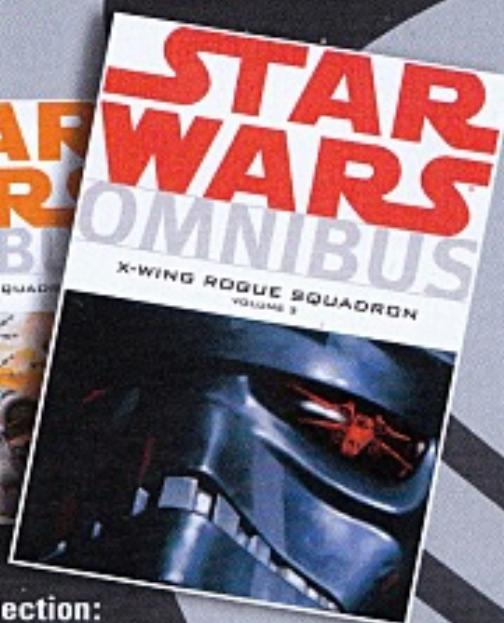
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SCIENCE OF COULD A REAL LIGHTSABER BE POSSIBLE?

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP: SCIENCE HAS A LONG WAY TO GO!

A real functioning lightsaber is seen as the holy grail for garden shed engineers and physicists with too much spare time on their hands.

In the Star Wars universe the lightsaber is built by hand by each Jedi. It contains a power source and crystals that focus the energy into a light blade capable of cutting through practically anything, except another lightsaber blade. The most obvious real-world equivalent is the laser.

Nearly 50 years old, laser technology has come a long way. In the weapons arena, the U.S. military has a prototype that takes up most of the interior of a jumbo jet and is designed to have the power to take down nuclear missiles in flight, provided there aren't any clouds in the way. On a much smaller scale, hand-held laser pointers can pop party balloons with their intensity. As laser beams are merely "coherent" beams of light, controlling the length of a laser lightsaber is currently beyond science. The beam would spill out like a torch and our Jedi would have to make sure he or she didn't point it at a mirror! The other problem would be making the beam "substantial". Laser beams can pass through each other with ease, being made purely of light.

There is another phenomenon that may give us a more realistic alternative to lasers. Plasma is just ionised gas that glows. We see it in plasma balls, neon light tubes, and the corona of the Sun. Because it is ionised it responds to magnetic fields, so theoretically it should be possible to generate a lightsaber beam of plasma with a strong magnetic field around it. As the fourth state of matter, however, plasma is very hot, with temperatures ranging from thousands to millions of degrees. If the plasma was dense enough, and if the magnetic field failed, then our Jedi could end up a bit scorched.

According to Dr Karl Lyons, a physicist at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France, "Let's assume that we can attach our plasma lightsabers to vast power sources. As soon as two blades clash, the magnetic fields would knot together, completely distorting the blades and making them unstable. The plasma could spill out and quickly ruin your day. Oh, and you'd have to perform your lightsaber fight in a vacuum, as fresh air would immediately quench the plasma blade."

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

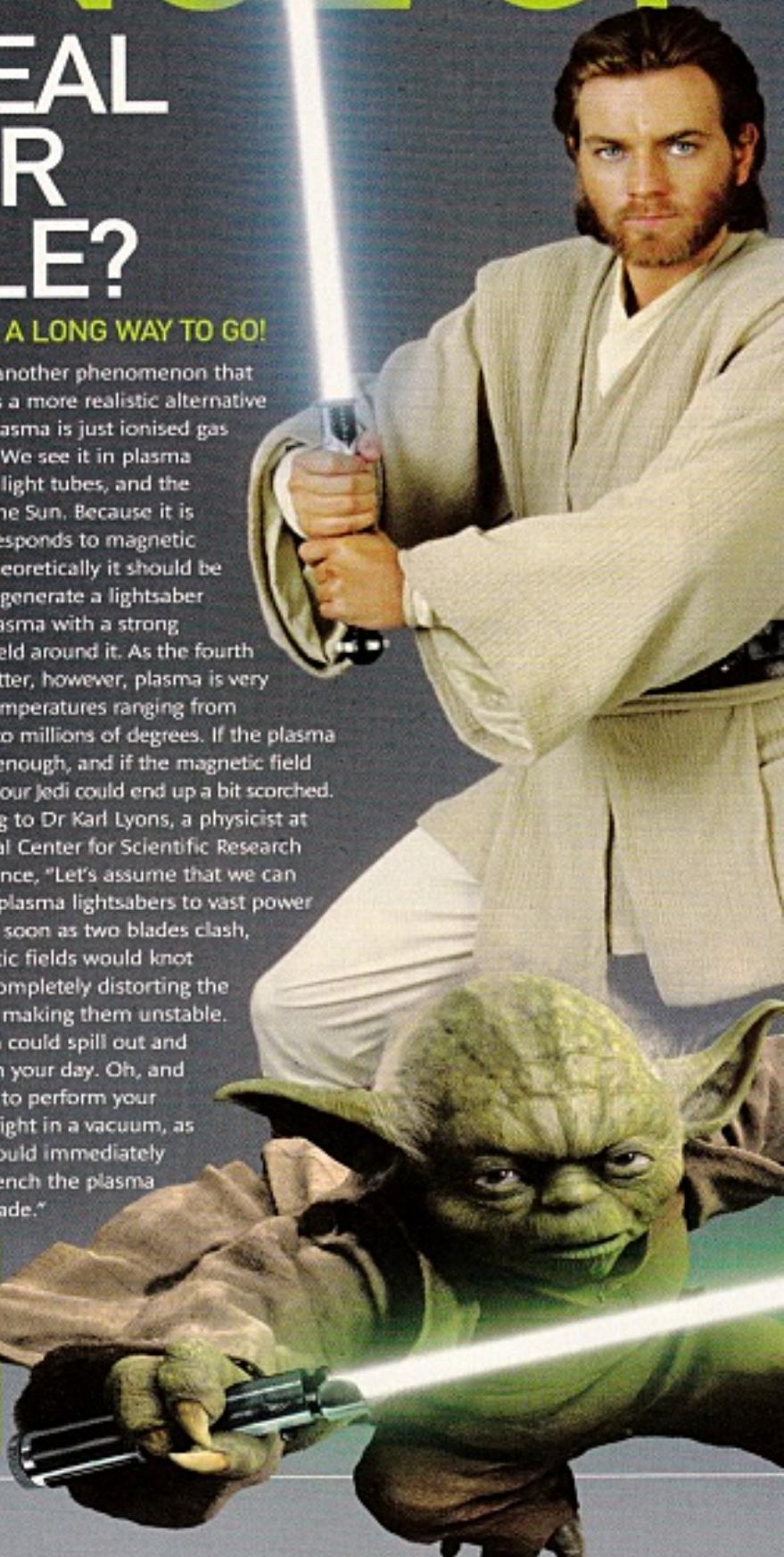
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"Instructional" video on how to handle your homemade lightsaber!

JEDI LIGHTSABER LABORATORY

http://www.atomfilms.com/film/lab_1138.jsp
This is a comical and funny fake news report on the development of a "real" lightsaber, directed by Christophe Veillard of the U.K.



STAR WARS

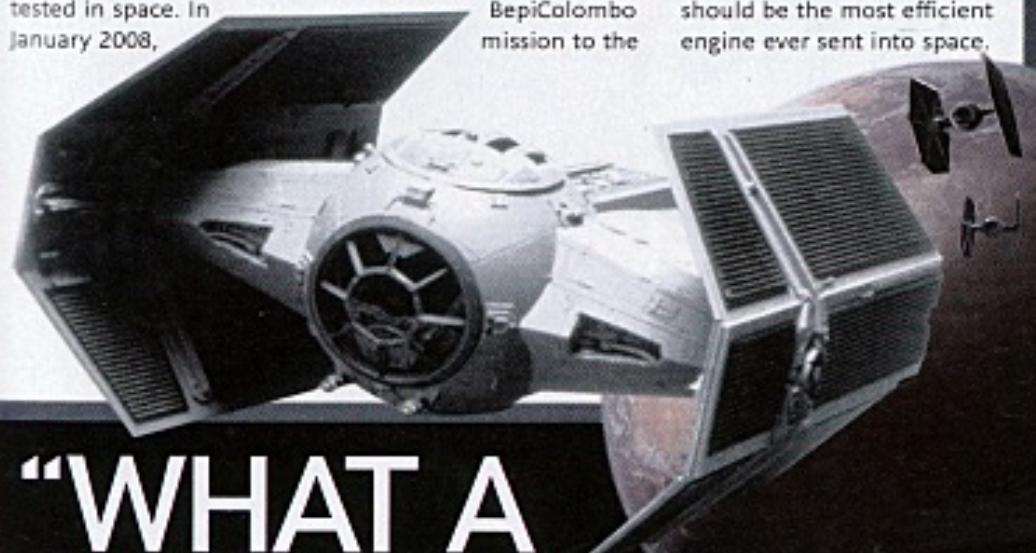
A REAL ION DRIVE

NOW IF WE COULD ONLY GET TWIN ENGINES WORKING....

Until recent years, ion drives have belonged purely in science fiction but several have now been tested in space. In January 2008,

the latest version of this technology was given the green light as the primary propulsion method for the European Space Agency's BepiColombo mission to the

planet Mercury. Due for launch in 2012, BepiColombo will be the most in-depth study of Mercury ever conducted and its ion drive should be the most efficient engine ever sent into space.

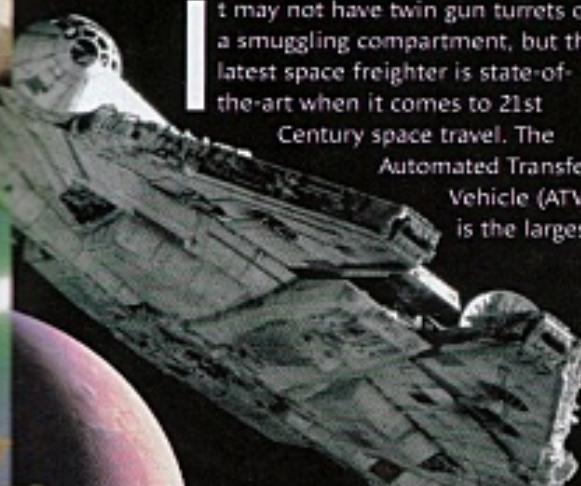


"WHAT A PIECE OF JUNK!"

PLANNED SPACE FREIGHTER IS HARDLY THE *MILLENNIUM FALCON*

It may not have twin gun turrets or a smuggling compartment, but the latest space freighter is state-of-the-art when it comes to 21st Century space travel. The Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) is the largest

and most complex spacecraft ever built by the European Space Agency. Scheduled for an early 2008 maiden flight, the unmanned freighter is designed to resupply the International Space Station with more than seven tons of cargo at a time.

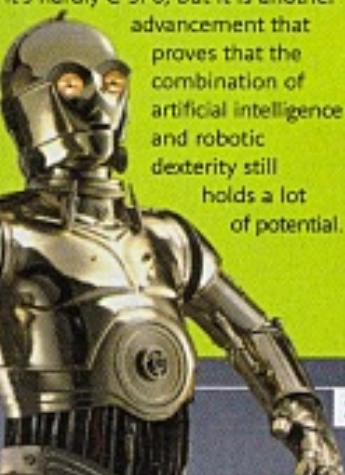


HOW MANY PLANETS ARE OUT THERE?

Trying to spot planets around other stars with telescopes has been likened to trying to see a firefly next to a searchlight from many miles away. But since 1995 astronomers have discovered around 270 planets in our galaxy; so far most have been large gas giants like Jupiter or Yavin. The good news is that it now seems that planets are common and, in 2007, the first planet was discovered that theoretically could have liquid water on its surface. It may not be too many years before we spot our first Naboo or Tatooine out there.

ONE MORE STEP TO C-3PO

Robots have gradually and quietly been infiltrating our world and in January 2008, another small step in robotic evolution took place in the Netherlands. The robot gas station attendant made its debut as an experiment inspired by milking machines! It can recognise the type of car pulling up, choose its fuel, use its arm to open the car's tank, and fill it up without any human intervention. It's hardly C-3PO, but it is another advancement that proves that the combination of artificial intelligence and robotic dexterity still holds a lot of potential.



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10 OBI-WAN KENOBI & ANAKIN SKYWALKER VS. COUNT DOOKU

Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith [DVD Chapter 5]

The first lightsaber battle of the final *Star Wars* movie is a rematch between the Jedi Master, his apprentice, and the Sith Lord; Dooku speaks for the whole audience when he says he's been looking forward to it. The action is fast and furious even before Dooku improves the odds by incapacitating Obi-Wan, but it steps up another notch when an angry Skywalker faces off against Dooku. When Anakin gives in to his hate, and maybe even the fear that Dooku senses, the Jedi takes the advantage. Anakin gets his revenge for losing his arm, cutting Dooku off at the wrists, before giving in to the dark side and obeying Palpatine's orders to kill the Count. The hatred in Anakin's eyes doesn't bode well for anyone who crosses his path in the future, and gets *Revenge of the Sith* off to a stunningly dramatic start.

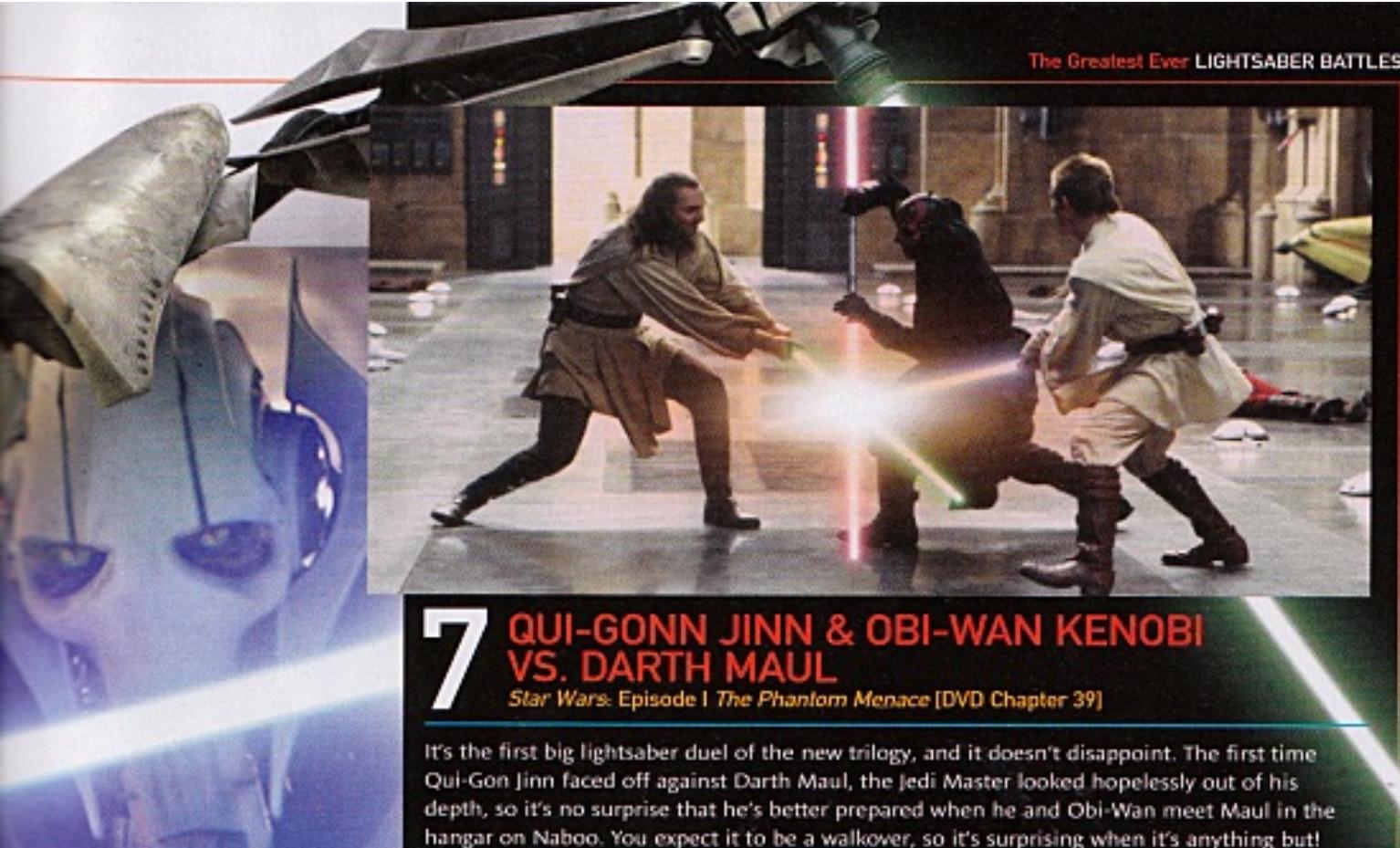


9 OBI-WAN KENOBI VS. DARTH VADER

Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope [DVD Chapter 3B]

It's the lightsaber battle that has been re-enacted in schoolyards around the world for over 30 years, but it's on our list at number nine because, compared with the other lightsaber fights we see in the later installments of the *Star Wars* saga, it's a bit slow. There are still hints of Anakin's arrogance in Darth Vader's demeanor as he's convinced that defeating his old teacher is going to be easy. Despite his age, Kenobi is still spry, even if neither he nor Vader indulge in any of the acrobatics that characterized their battle a mere 19 years earlier. It's still incredibly powerful, and marks a key emotional moment in the saga as Obi-Wan surrenders himself to the Force.





8 OBI-WAN KENOBI VS. GENERAL GRIEVOUS

Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith [DVD Chapters 21 & 24]

"So uncivilized," Obi-Wan mutters after he's had to use a blaster to dispose of General Grievous. And it sums up their battle. This isn't a heroic contest between Jedi Knights and Sith Lords—it's a down and dirty, no holds barred, old-fashioned fight-to-the-death. After seeing Grievous in action in the *Clone Wars* micro-series, expectations were running high for this particular fight, and audiences weren't disappointed. However, it's fairly low on our list because a large part of it doesn't involve lightsabers at all: Kenobi disarms Grievous (literally!) and then loses his own lightsaber during their chase across the planet. It might not have the grace and epic quality of a duel between Jedi Masters, but there's a desperation about the fight that we've not seen before, but would again during *Revenge of the Sith*'s dark climax.

7 QUI-GON JINN & OBI-WAN KENOBI VS. DARTH MAUL

Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace [DVD Chapter 39]

It's the first big lightsaber duel of the new trilogy, and it doesn't disappoint. The first time Qui-Gon Jinn faced off against Darth Maul, the Jedi Master looked hopelessly out of his depth, so it's no surprise that he's better prepared when he and Obi-Wan meet Maul in the hangar on Naboo. You expect it to be a walkover, so it's surprising when it's anything but! Maul harnesses the power of the dark side against his Jedi opponents; when they get separated, it gives him another advantage over and above his skills with his unique double-bladed lightsaber. When Qui-Gon is killed, Obi-Wan has to be equally vicious, leading to one of the *Star Wars* moments to treasure the most: the look of surprise on Maul's face as he realizes that Obi-Wan has used the Force to grab Qui-Gon's lightsaber to cut him in two!

6 YODA VS. THE EMPEROR

Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith [DVD Chapter 39 onwards]

There are two big battles at the end of *Revenge of the Sith* that every fan was waiting for: Obi-Wan against Anakin, and Yoda versus the Emperor. We knew that all the combatants would survive their encounters, but what would happen when the ultimate Force masters met? It doesn't start well for the Jedi Master, and the Emperor may have a point when he accuses Yoda of arrogance and too much self-confidence. The two seem equally matched no matter the weapon: lightsabers, Force pushes, or Force lightning. The battles between Yoda and Dooku, and Palpatine and Mace Windu seem like warm-ups, as both employ every tactic used in those fights, yet still find themselves unable to take the upper hand. Cutting between this battle and Obi-Wan and Anakin's final duel makes Yoda's defeat seem even more powerful, and there's a definite air of unfinished business as Yoda makes his hasty retreat.



5 MACE WINDU VS. PALPATINE

Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith
(DVD Chapter 27)

Let's be honest here: as soon as Samuel L. Jackson was cast as Mace Windu, we all looked forward to seeing him in serious fighting mode. He had a bit of action on Geonosis, but it's at this key point in *Revenge of the Sith* that he comes into his own. Windu is up against an enemy he really doesn't understand or even recognize until it's far too late. Despite Palpatine's revelation that he's a Sith Lord, Windu doesn't give up. It's another fast and furious battle that ends with Windu disarming the treacherous Chancellor and apparently having him at his mercy. How much Palpatine is faking his weakness, hoping that Anakin will take the initiative and deal with Windu, we'll never know. But it certainly looks like Windu is going to deliver the ultimate sanction until Anakin takes the fateful step on his path to becoming Darth Vader and chooses to defend Palpatine.

4 LUKE SKYWALKER VS. DARTH VADER

Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back
(DVD Chapters 42, 44, 46)

"I am your father." Darth Vader's revelation tends to overshadow the battle between father and son that precedes it, yet it's one of the strongest in the entire saga. This isn't an almost-civilized duel, like the fight between Ben Kenobi and Vader on the Death Star. Luke is no pushover, and is able to use the Force to a much greater extent than Vader anticipates. Vader has little option but to keep Luke at bay, using the dark side to throw objects at him. Yet Luke continues to survive, and the final phase of their lightsaber duel sees Vader at his most unrestrained, almost using his lightsaber as a broadsword, hacking at his son to force him backwards. In the end the only way to stop Luke from fighting is to cut his hand off and as the shocked youngster clings on, Vader reveals the truth—but doesn't anticipate Luke's decision to sacrifice himself rather than join him.



3 YODA VS. COUNT DOOKU

Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones [DVD Chapter 46]

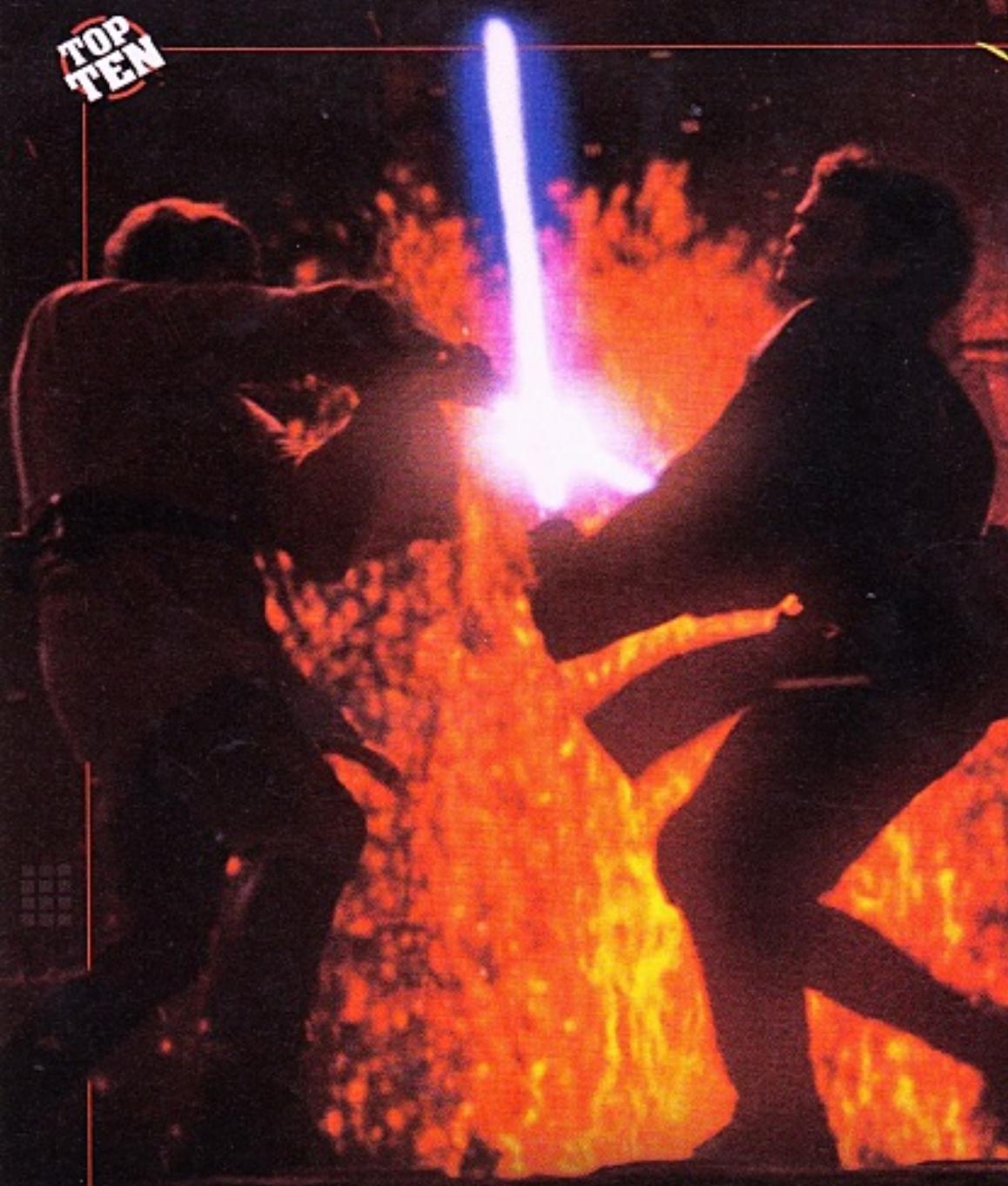
When word got out before *Attack of the Clones* opened that Yoda was going to be in a lightsaber duel, fans wondered aloud whether it would be the film's highlight or low point. After all, Christopher Lee's Count Dooku is up there in age for a human, and we'd never seen the wizened 800-plus year-old Jedi Master do much more than walk very slowly. The small figure who hobbles on his walking stick into the secret hangar on Geonosis seems almost pathetically frail as he adopts a stance preparing for battle. He may look a bit comic, but there's nothing funny about what follows. After all, it's Yoda who's been teaching Jedi apprentices for the past eight centuries! There are more parries and thrusts, jumps and attacks than in any of the previous fights. It's a battle between two masters of their art, lightsabers flashing so fast you can hardly follow it. Incredibly, the whole confrontation takes less than two and a half minutes, with only 45 seconds or so of lightsaber action!



2 LUKE SKYWALKER VS. DARTH VADER & THE EMPEROR

Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi [DVD Chapter 37 onwards]

It's the battle that the entire saga has been building towards, as the "new hope" of the Jedi confronts the ultimate evil in Emperor Palpatine—but which side will Darth Vader be on? The Emperor doesn't have any loyalty to Vader, no more than he did to Dooku, and whichever Skywalker wins, he will still have a pawn. He watches father and son battle with a raw passion as Luke fights to keep the evil of the Sith away from his sister Leia. Then when Vader's arm is chopped off, and Luke refuses the Emperor's "invitation" to join him, Palpatine turns on Luke. Only Vader can save his son. At most times, and particularly in his weakened state, Vader wouldn't have stood a chance against the power emanating from his Master, but the light side of the Force gives him the strength he needs. This is the only battle in the saga in which both opponents die: The Emperor's body explodes as it enters the reactor core, and Anakin Skywalker dies in his son's arms a few minutes later. Although Vader had claimed that the circle was complete when he encountered Ben Kenobi on the Death Star, it really was complete now, as the good side in Anakin finally helped return balance to the Force.



1 OBI-WAN KENOBI VS. ANAKIN SKYWALKER

Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith (DVD Chapter 38 onwards)

For nearly 30 years we knew that the battle between Darth Vader and Ben Kenobi on board the Death Star was a rematch between the former Jedi Master and his apprentice. *Revenge of the Sith* finally provided us with the original, cataclysmic clash of the titans. While *Return of the Jedi* shows us Vader's redemption, and is the emotional climax of the saga, Episode III brought fans the big moment we'd all been waiting for. It came down to a massive lightsaber duel between two evenly matched opponents. The lightsabers flash furiously against the backdrop of volcanic Mustafar; while it's said that only a fool fights in a burning house, these two don't have an option. The planet erupts around them as neither will give ground. John Williams' magnificent score is operatic in scope as the two men duel back and forth, their lightsabers often the only items that aren't glowing orange or red on screen. It's epic, it dominates the movie—and fittingly, the final filmed battle of the saga is the finest. ♦

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>

THE GREATEST EVER... LIGHTSABER BATTLES

Lightsaber battles feature widely in the *Star Wars Expanded Universe* of novels, comic books, videogames, and animated adventures. Here's a few that *Insider* recommends you should check out:

Jedi: Mace Windu (comic book)

Sam Jackson's Mace Windu wields his purple-bladed lightsaber against a group of rogue Jedi.

Tales of the Jedi: The Sith War (comic book)
An epic, with a lot of double-bladed lightsaber action.

Legacy of the Force: Tempest (novel)

Luke Skywalker faces off against his first love in a knock-down, drag-out lightsaber fight.

Republic: "Show of Force." (comic book)
Mace Windu lights up his purple blade once again.

Jedi Knight: Dark Forces II (videogame)
Kyle Katarn sometimes swaps his Breyar pistol for a lightsaber.

Darth Maul: Shadow Hunter (novel)
The moody Zabrak with the double-bladed lightsaber gets a back-story!

The New Jedi Order: Dark Tide (novel)
Features awesome lightsaber duels.

Clone Wars (animated micro-series)
Asajj Ventress is not only tested by her Master, Count Dooku (Chapter VII) but she also faces Anakin Skywalker in a rain-drenched super-duel in the jungles of Yavin 4 (Chapter XVIII).



And Finally: Han vs the tauntaun!
Even in the movies, lightsabers can be put to novel uses. Our favorite is Han vs the tauntaun, in which the heroic Corellian waits until the creature freezes to death before daring to tackle it. We can only assume the awful smell he discovers is the tauntaun's revenge...

AGREE? DISAGREE? >>

Have your say via email to starwarsinsider@titanemail.com. Did we pick the right battles and get them in the right order? Was your favorite missing? Set the record straight and have your say!

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and requires limited assembly.

Prototypes shown; final products may vary.
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STAR WARS
KOTOBUKIYA ARTFX STATUES

DATABANK

An immense, fur-covered Wookiee warrior of great strength and loyalty, Chewbacca was a well-known figure in both the underworld and in the Rebel Alliance. Born on Kashyyyk over two centuries before the Battle of Yavin, Chewbacca was a wise, sophisticated being with exceptional skills in starship piloting and repair. A veteran of the Clone Wars, Chewbacca was part of the high command tasked with protecting Kashyyyk from droid invasion, serving with Jedi Master Yoda. Wookiees were enslaved by the Empire for use as labor, including Chewbacca, who was freed by an impudent Imperial cadet named Han Solo. Chewbacca swore loyalty to Han, and the two of them became a well-known smuggling duo.

PROFILE

HOMeworld: KASHYYYK

SPECIES: WOOKIEE

HEIGHT: 2.28 METERS

GENDER: MALE

WEAPONS: BOWCASTER

VEHICLE: MILLENNIUM FALCON

AFFILIATION: REBEL ALLIANCE.

SKILLS

A fearsome warrior, Chewbacca can rely on his strength, size, and mechanical skills. He has great courage and is not afraid to put himself in danger to save others.

STRENGTH	90
SPEED	70
JEDI POWER	20
LEADERSHIP	50
MOBILITY	70
LOYALTY	90
SPECIAL ABILITY	80
BONUS SKILL	60



CHEWBACCA

It may seem an unlikely showdown, but it could easily have been Chewbacca who fell into Jabba the Hutt's pit rather than Luke Skywalker, so the Wookiee could have come bowcaster-to-claw with the rampant rancor. So, if that had happened, who would have survived the encounter?

We've seen Chewbacca—and other Wookiees—in action in *Revenge of the Sith*. They have the advantage of brute force, supplemented by intelligent cunning. That's where the rancor loses out: it's big, strong, fierce and furious, but it is a slow beast. It can't draw on intelligence and cunning in the way that Chewbacca the Wookiee can, so

THE RANCOR

those purely physical advantages don't add up to much. After all, Luke Skywalker used his Jedi smarts to outwit the beast and bring about its demise. We can only guess that Chewbacca would be able to manage a similar feat.

Having said that, though, could the rancor's sheer bulk and impervious hide give it a significant advantage? It may

not be a smart creature, but it only has to be lucky once to deliver a killing blow. If Chewbacca's endurance were to run out, perhaps the plodding, dumb-as-a-battle droid rancor could get the upper hand?

WHO TRIUMPHS?....

Turn to page 79 now for the answer!

DATABANK

A terrible creature hidden in a chamber beneath Jabba the Hutt's throne room, the rancor was a five-meter tall towering hulk of muscle and reptilian flesh. It walked on two stubby legs and had disproportionately long arms to capture prey.

Dominating its flat face was a salivating tooth-filled maw. Its armored skin was so tough that the beast could slough off blaster bolts. The rancor would make short work of any unfortunate soul dropped into the pit.

PROFILE

HOMEWORLD: UNKNOWN

(possibly Dathomir)

GENDER: UNKNOWN

HEIGHT: 5-10 METERS

(Dathomirian rancors are taller)

WEAPONS: NONE, EXCEPT

TEETH AND CLAWS

VEHICLE: NONE

DIET: CARNIVORE

AFFILIATION: NONE

SKILLS

A slow and ponderous creature of great bulk, the rancor is both fierce and relentless. However, it is also slow-witted and suffers from delayed reaction times.

100

STRENGTH

60

SPEED

00

JEDI POWER

10

LEADERSHIP

30

MOBILITY

30

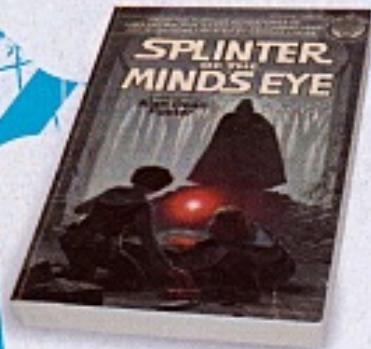
LOYALTY

30

SPECIAL ABILITY

50

BONUS SKILL



Several hundred Star Wars books have been published to date—enough pages to reach to Tatooine and back. The growing roster of stories known as the Expanded Universe (everything in non-film media including television, novels, video games, and comics) has added gigabytes of detail and events to the history of that galaxy far, far away. Yet even the biggest fan can be forgiven for wincing when asked to catch up on 30 years of backlog fiction. Fortunately, the Expanded Universe is like a salad bar—you don't have to eat the whole thing. Presented here are the EU's tastiest bits, whether you're looking for a well-balanced meal, to sample something more exotic, or simply a way to begin your explorations of this in-depth menu.

The concept of an Expanded Universe certainly isn't unique to Star Wars. Many popular genre properties, from Star Trek to *Alien*, release spin-off tales that shed light on events not seen in the "official" narrative. But the Star Wars EU is unique both in its size and in the care with which its narrative is shepherded and organized. In *Star Wars*, the Expanded Universe is official, albeit on a slightly lower level—sometimes called C-canon (see box on page 40)—than the absolute authority of the six *Star Wars* films.

The evidence is everywhere, from comic book character Aayla Secura popping up in *Revenge of the Sith* to the name of the planet Coruscant, which originally appeared in a Timothy Zahn novel. Reference works such as *The New Essential Chronology* fit

every major storyline into a timeline spanning more than 30,000 "standard" or Earth years, with the movie saga occupying only a fraction of its pages. Even behind the scenes, the EU is treated with great care. Lucasfilm maintains an internal continuity bible, the Holocron, to keep track of the additions to official lore.

The first true Expanded Universe tale appeared in 1978 with the comic book *Star Wars* #7, when Marvel Comics moved beyond *A New Hope* to tell an original tale of Han and Chewie on the run from bounty hunters. TV followed the same year, with the strangely popular *Star Wars Holiday Special*, debuting on November 17, 1978—and never to be aired again. The Holiday Special also broke ground by introducing the *Star Wars* characters to the world of animation, paving the way for two animated series (*Droids* and *Ewoks*) in 1985. A spin-off novel, *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*, debuted in 1978, and original *Star Wars* newspaper strips began appearing across the U.S. the following year. Guidebooks and supplements for the *Star Wars* role-playing game added minutiae starting in 1987. Video games came late to the party, not providing unique, in-universe narratives (if you don't count the Disney theme-park ride *Star Tours*) until 1993's *X-Wing: Space Combat Simulator*.

The variety of projects has proven two things: the *Star Wars* setting is adaptable to any medium, and there's a seemingly inexhaustible demand for fresh tales from a devoted fan-base.

THE ESSENTIAL, EXPANDED



UNIVERSE!

TIRED OF BLUFFING THROUGH YOUR EXPANDED UNIVERSE KNOWLEDGE AT VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS? HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET YOU STARTED IN YOUR EXPLORATION OF STAR WARS BEYOND THE BIG SCREEN.

Words: Daniel Wallace

NOVELS

Many of the Expanded Universe's biggest events happen in the books, from the death of Chewbacca to the birth of Luke Skywalker's son. But due to the sheer weight of material, they can also seem the most daunting for newcomers.

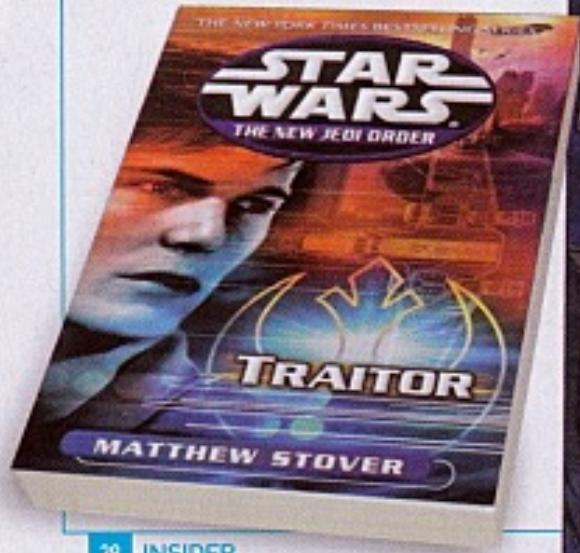
MUST READ:

The *Thrawn* trilogy. This three-book series (*Heir to the Empire*, *Dark Force Rising*, and *The Last Command*) is widely credited with tapping a wellspring of underground *Star Wars* fandom when the first book shot up to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list in 1991. Its characters and situations have influenced *Star Wars* fiction ever since.

Famous for introducing blue-skinned Imperial tactician Grand Admiral Thrawn, Timothy Zahn's trilogy (set five years after *Return of the Jedi*) also marked the debut of former Imperial assassin Mara Jade—the woman who would win Luke's heart and spawn a legion of fan fiction.

DON'T OVERLOOK:

New Jedi Order: Traitor. One of the most controversial *Star Wars* novels, Matthew Woodring Stover's starkly grim psychological dissection of morality finds Han and Leia's oldest son the prisoner of the fanatical Yuuzhan Vong. This "last temptation of Jacen Solo" uses metaphor and nightmarish imagery to explore the nature of good and evil. Its central theme, that the dark side of the Force is only a matter of perspective, sparked spirited fan debate.



COMICS

George Lucas found inspiration for *Star Wars* in the Flash Gordon comics of his youth, so it's fitting that his brainchild has found such success in the four-color medium. Marvel Comics published 107 issues from the late 1970s to the early 1980s, and Dark Horse currently tells tales spanning more than 4,000 years of *Star Wars* history.

MUST READ:

Dark Empire. Like the *Thrawn* trilogy, the appearance of the six-issue *Dark Empire* in 1991-92 (written by Tom Veitch and richly illustrated by Cam Kennedy) ushered in a resurgence of *Star Wars* comics that had been scarce on racks since the cancellation of the Marvel series in 1986. It's also a whopper of a story. Set six years after *Jedi*, the series brings Emperor Palpatine back from the grave in a clone body and spares Boba Fett from the Sarlacc, allying both antagonists with potent Imperial forces that have reduced Coruscant to rubble. Remembered for its Palpatine resurrection, the series also earned notoriety for (temporarily) luring Luke to the dark side.

DON'T OVERLOOK:

Star Wars Legacy. This ongoing Dark Horse title, created by writer John Ostrander and artist Jan Duursema, dared to go where no series had gone before by setting its action more than 130 years after *Return of the Jedi*. In doing so, it essentially "killed off" every member of the main *Star Wars* cast (although Luke Skywalker, in fact, has appeared several times as a Force spirit). The action, involving lightsaber-wielding Imperial Knights and a new, benevolent Emperor, centers on the struggle between Cade Skywalker and his nemesis, Darth Krayt.

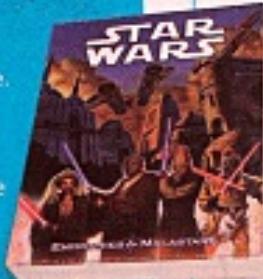
WANT TO KNOW THE WHOLE PICTURE?

The Star Wars movies are packed with offhand references to places and things for which you'll find answers only in the EU

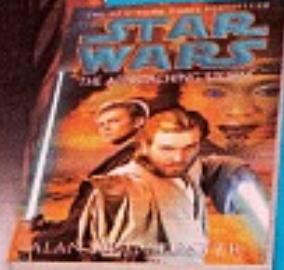
THE PHANTOM MENACE

"Yud-say boom da gasser, un crash der boss's heylubber, den banished." Jar Jar's clumsy accident and exile from Otoh Gunga occurred in the young-adult adventure *Episode I Adventures: The Bongo Rally*. (By the way, a heylubber is a luxury submarine.)

"They have Podracing on Malastare. Very fast, very dangerous." For a taste of just how dangerous, read the comic collection *Emissaries to Malastare*. Better yet, experience the tracks firsthand in the game *Star Wars: Episode I Racer*.



ATTACK OF THE CLONES



"That's possible—he has just returned from a border dispute on Anisian." Anakin and Obi-Wan's diplomacy mission on the steppes of Anisian is the subject of *The Approaching Storm*, a novel by Alan Dean Foster (who also wrote the first Expanded Universe novel, *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*).

"I haven't felt you this tense since we fell into that nest of gundarks." This tale, providing fodder for Anakin and Obi-Wan's joking game of one-upmanship, is related in the young-adult novel *Jedi Quest: The Moment of Truth*.

REVENGE OF THE SITH

"Saleucami has fallen, and Master Vos has moved his troops to Boz Pity." Obi-Wan's line refers to Quinlan Vos, the EU star of many prequel-era comics. The fighting on Saleucami occurs in *Clone Wars Vol. 8: The Last Siege, The Final Truth*, while the Boz Pity operation is the subject of *Star Wars: Obsession*.

"I have seen a security hologram of him killing younglings." The Jedi Temple massacre, largely unseen in the movie, takes center stage in the *Revenge of the Sith* video game. As Anakin, players must fight their way through Jedi defenders to achieve their grim objective.



A NEW HOPE

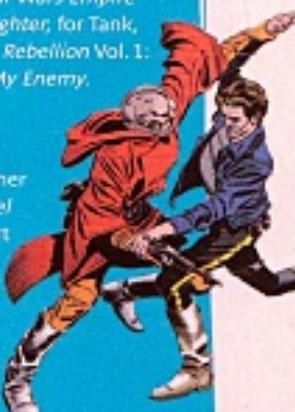
"Several transmissions were beamed to this ship by Rebel spies." Princess Leia's receipt of the Death Star plans first appeared in the *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope* radio adaptation. For the other side of the coin, the novel *Rebel Dawn* details the grim fate of the planet-bound team manning the satellite relay.

"That's what you said when Biggs and Tank left." Luke's Tatooine buddies went on to adventures of their own in the Dark Horse comics. For Biggs, check out *Star Wars Empire Vol. 2: Darklighter*; for Tank, try *Star Wars Rebellion Vol. 1: My Brother, My Enemy*.

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

"That bounty hunter we ran into on Ord Mantell changed my mind." Multiple tellings of this incident exist: two versions in Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson's newspaper strip (reprinted as *Classic Star Wars: In Deadly*

Pursuit and *Escape to Hoth*), another in the 1983 read-along record *Rebel Mission to Ord Mantell*, and a "sort of" version that can be gleaned from Troy Denning's choose-your-own-adventure gaming book *Scoundrel's Luck*.



RETURN OF THE JEDI

"We have stolen a small Imperial shuttle." The theft of the Tydirium is another victim of dueling narratives. The video games *X-Wing Alliance* and *Rogue Squadron II: Rogue Leader* both detailed the risky mission.

"Many Bothans died to bring us this information." The sad fate of the Bothans can be seen in the novel *Shadows of the Empire* and the game *X-Wing Alliance*, in which an Imperial freighter decimates the Bothan fighter squadron.

BOOKS



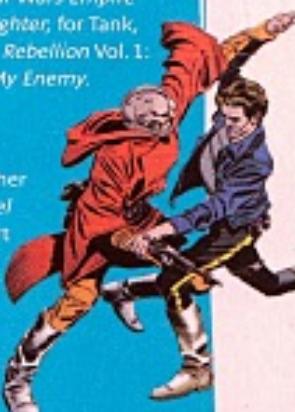
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DID ANY OF THIS REALLY HAPPEN?

A common critique of the Expanded Universe is its size—no one, some say, should have to consume that much media to get the full *Star Wars* story. In fact, the six *Star Wars* movies have always been the core of the saga, and the only absolutely essential parts to being a fan.

But most of the EU is part of the broader story too. Leland Y. Chee, the keeper of Lucasfilm's Holocron—an internal continuity base—has his own way of differentiating among all the different sources:

G-CANON (FOR "GEORGE LUCAS")

Made up only of the six *Star Wars* movies and unpublished internal notes from Lucas or the movie production department.

C-CANON (FOR "CONTINUITY")

Just about anything created by authors so that includes most of the Expanded Universe.

S-CANON (FOR "SECONDARY")

Used for older published materials created when there was less attention to making everything in the EU fit with everything else in the EU. If it gets referenced somewhere else, it moves up to C-canon. It also can include video game-play mechanics.

N-CANON (FOR "NON-CONTINUITY")

Rarely used except in the case of a blatant contradiction. But it also can be used for "Infinities" type stories that are developed outside of continuity intentionally, or crossovers and cross-branding like a *Darth Vader* or *Star Wars* *Transformers* that might have a small back-story.

REFERENCE WORKS

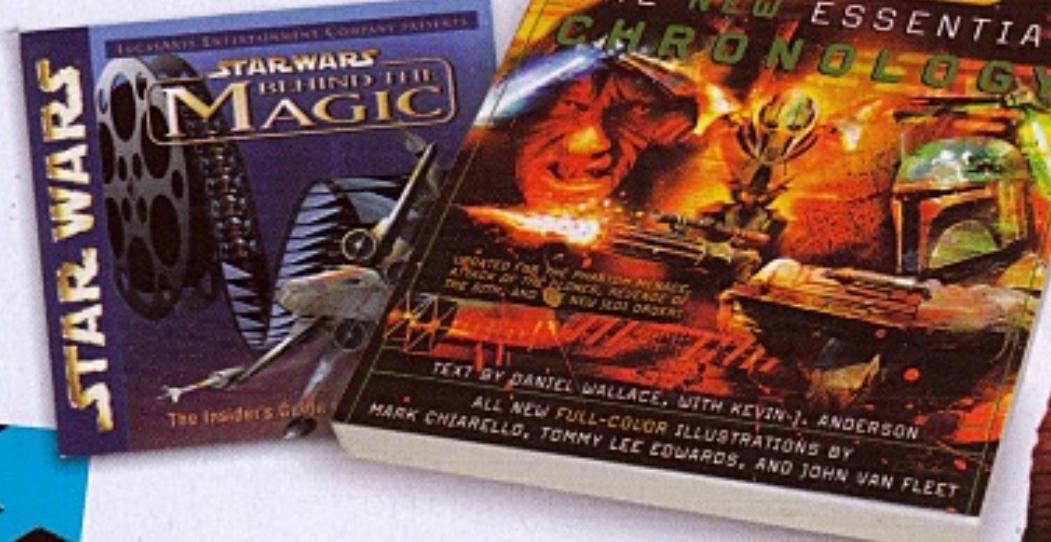
The denseness of the *Star Wars* universe has given rise to a host of guides for streamlining the chaos. Online resources include the starwars.com databank and the fan-generated content at Wookieepedia, but other works have earned their place on bookshelves and desks.

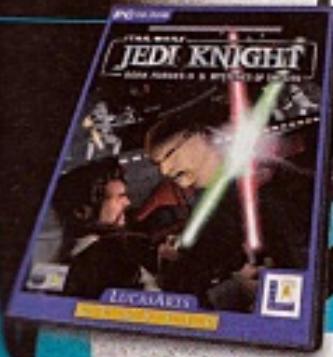
MUST READ:

The New Essential Chronology. Nothing will get you up to speed on the Expanded Universe faster than this volume, which covers tens of millennia of fictional history. Its bibliography and source list are current up to the time of its publication in 2005 (and it was written by the author of this piece.)

DON'T OVERLOOK:

Behind the Magic. A jaw-dropping resource that has gone overlooked in the technological march of time, this 1998 CD-ROM contained just about everything a fan could possibly want to know about the classic trilogy. Highlights included script variations, thematic influences, interviews with George Lucas and other creators, extensive scene-by-scene notations detailing the EU back-stories of on-screen items, and a set of deleted scenes including Biggs' visit to Anchorhead.



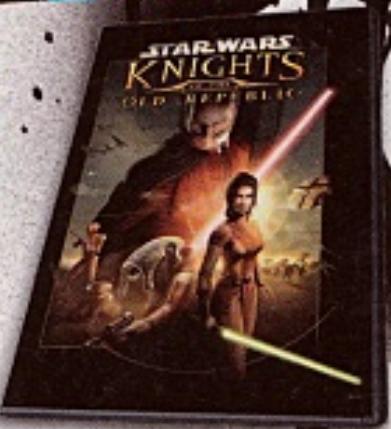


GAMES

The first *Star Wars* video games (including the original Atari *Star Wars* arcade game and the "Super Star Wars" series for the SuperNES) simply adapted elements from the films. Eventually, however, increased technical sophistication led to deeper storytelling.

MUST PLAY:

Knights of the Old Republic. This expansive RPG takes place in an era 4,000 years before the movies. Its lively characters, agonizing moral choices, and the biggest plot shocker since "Luke, I am your father" led to its appearance on many "game of the year" lists in 2003.



DON'T OVERLOOK:

Dark Forces II: Jedi Knight. A groundbreaking first-person shooter, this game perfected lightsaber combat and provided gamers with an arsenal of Force abilities from speed to choke. Its storyline, which varied based on user choices, had a cinematic feel thanks to live-action cut scenes.



TELEVISION

The *Star Wars* Holiday Special kicked things off, but subsequent *Star Wars* projects for the small screen thankfully set the bar a little higher. Two feature-length films, *Caravan of Courage: An Ewok Adventure* and *Ewoks: The Battle for Endor*, took place on the Forest Moon with storylines aimed at younger audiences. Two short-lived animated series, *Droids* and *Ewoks*, followed in 1985. After a long absence, *Star Wars* is in the process of coming back to television in a big way.

MUST SEE:

Clone Wars seasons 1 and 2. This award-winning, highly-stylized animated micro-series, designed by Genndy Tartakovsky, is blisteringly kinetic in every frame—even when its characters are standing still, they seem to explode with motion. Filling in some of the events between *Attack of the Clones* and *Revenge of the Sith*, *Clone Wars* is packed with memorable sights including a joust on speeder bikes and an army boarding an enemy vessel in zero-G vacuum.

DON'T OVERLOOK:

After the CG animated *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* comes to theaters this August, it will become a weekly television series. Next up, the *Star Wars* live-action TV series later this decade. Both TV series will likely reach more fans than anything outside of the movies themselves. The biggest EU projects to date, or an official "G-canonical" extension of the film saga? Either way, we can't wait!



5

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THERE'S A NEW FORCE IN THE GALAXY...

A LONG TIME AGO....

REAL LIFE

1980

WORLD NEWS

Dec 8, 1980

John Lennon is shot and killed outside his New York apartment by Mark Chapman.

ALSO HITTING THE HEADLINES....

- Millions of viewers tune into the TV soap opera *Dallas* to discover who shot J.R. Ewing.
- Mount St. Helens erupts in Washington causing \$3 billion in damage and killing 57 people.
- Cable News Network (CNN) — the first 24-hour news TV network — debuts.
- Rubik's Cube hits U.S. toy stores.

COST OF LIVING

Cost of a movie ticket averages \$2.69, while gas is \$1.19 a gallon. A first-class stamp costs just 15 cents.

HIT SONGS:

All Out of Love by Air Supply; *Ace of Spades* by Motörhead and *Another One Bites The Dust* by Queen.

AT THE BOX OFFICE

Top-grossing films:

1. *The Empire Strikes Back* (\$290.2m)
2. *Superman II* (\$208.2m)
3. *9 to 5* (\$103.3m)
4. *Star Crazy* (\$101.3m)
5. *Airplane!* (\$81.4m)

HYPE-O-METER

How *Star Wars* gripped the nation throughout 1980



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK OPENS! May 21, 1980

Three years after *Star Wars*, movie theaters had changed. Most were now upgraded to showcase Dolby-encoded stereo prints, or Six-Track Dolby Stereo 70mm prints. *Star Wars* had proven that a theater's aural presentation was a marketable asset, so many theater owners were prepared to dazzle their audiences with superior sound and image resolution for the saga's first sequel.

THE EMPIRE POSTERS

GONE WITH THE WIND

A variety of posters were produced for *The Empire Strikes Back* in the classic insert, half-sheet, one-sheet, 30"x40", and two-sheet sizes. Roger Kastel's *Gone With The Wind*-inspired artwork became an instant classic, beautifully depicting the icy tones of Hoth amid luminous auroras and a classically-composed Han/Leia embrace. These were quickly replaced by Toen Jung's more traditional Style "B", when the campaign messaging shifted from romance to action. Yoda would not appear on an *Empire* poster until the film's re-release in July, 1981.

SPECIAL PREMIERE POSTERS

Because there was much more public awareness for *Empire* than there had been for *Star Wars*, some theaters printed up special premiere posters exclusive to their venues. Though not "official" release posters, they are notable for their historical interest, preserving the date, time and venue of early screenings.

LICENSEE DISPLAYS

Theater fixture Coca-Cola finally tied in their *Star Wars* license to a concession sales premium for *The Empire Strikes Back*, offering an exclusive poster by fantasy artist Boris Vallejo. A trio of smaller *Empire* posters by Vallejo was offered at Burger Chef restaurants at the same time, causing some confusion among modern collectors.



Clockwise: *ESP* *Gone with the Wind*; the Coca-Cola poster; and the Style B theater release poster, circa 1983

1980



MARK HAMILL GUEST STARS ON THE MUPPET SHOW

In 1980, the stars of *Star Wars* guest-starred on *The Muppet Show*, including Mark Hamill, C-3PO, R2-D2, and Peter Mayhew as Chewbacca. In one skit starring Kermit, all the Muppets are entertaining the theater audience, when out of nowhere C-3PO and R2-D2 walk onto the stage and start babbling.

At one point Hamill does Muppet impressions before showing off his singing and dancing skills. Later, there's another *Star Wars* parody with Muppets playing various characters, including Gonzo as Darth Vader!

US: *Star Wars* #39: *The Empire Strikes Back: Beginning*

UK: *The Empire Strikes Back* UK Weekly Comic #119

The Rebel Alliance has a new base on the ice planet Hoth, but an Imperial probe droid discovers their location and transmits the data before it can be destroyed. Luke Skywalker has been attacked by a wampa, but escapes and, with the help of Han Solo, returns to Echo Base. Captain Firmus Piett reports his findings to Darth Vader who immediately orders the fleet to Hoth. This is part one of six adapting *The Empire Strikes Back*. Only small references link the story arc with the rest of the series; otherwise we have no clue of when the Alliance colonized Hoth.



HAN SOLO AND THE LOST LEGACY

August, 1980

Novel by Brian Daley. There's a fabled treasure at stake and a price on Han's head. So he and Chewbacca head for a planet rumored to hide undreamed-of riches. But once they get there, Han's beloved spacecraft, the Falcon, is hijacked by a band of assassins and killer robots. Their chances for survival are so slim, they might as well risk it all....



JOHN RATZENBERGER MORE THAN A BIT PLAYER

Blink and you'll miss him! John Ratzenberger may have been a bit player in *The Empire Strikes Back*, but he would go on to star for more than a decade in *Cheers*, one of TV's most popular sitcoms.

What do you recall about making Empire?
I remember having an enormous crush on Carrie Fisher. I was living in what pretty much amounted to an abandoned building at the time, so there wasn't much I could offer her.

Did you know you were part of a legend?
I really didn't know *Star Wars* had become this huge thing. [though] I was aware there was a movie out. It was a job I was hired to do.

I showed up to do a job, and then I went home.

You were apparently inspired by the acting success of Harrison Ford in *Star Wars*?
I remember thinking, "That's pretty cool." If he could do it, I could do it. What I do well is improvise within the situation. Drop me into the situation and I'll do fine.

CHRISTMAS IN THE STARS Released: Nov 1980

What do droids, Chewbacca, legendary disco producer Meco, and rocker Jon Bon Jovi have in common? They all celebrate the holidays on *Christmas in the Stars*. With memorable tunes such as "What Can You Get a Wookiee for Christmas (When He Already Owns a Comb?)" and C-3PO's retelling of a sci-fi infused "Twas the Night Before Christmas," the album is a quirky addition to any holiday music collection.

The album's story takes place in a droid factory where robots build toys year round for S. Claus. However they don't understand the meaning of Christmas until C-3PO and R2-D2 show them how to appreciate the holiday spirit. Even Artoo adds to the season festivities by learning how to whistle the catchy Christmas ditty, "Sleigh Ride." Later we learn who gets what from their wish list: a scarf for Luke Skywalker, perfume for Princess Leia, and earmuffs for Han Solo!

Recorded in 1980, many of the album's songs were written by Yale University music professor Maury Yeston. Producer Meco Monardo, who already topped the charts with his best-selling disco album *Star Wars And Other Galactic Funk* envisioned and supervised the unusual project.

The most trivia-worthy album liner note is the debut of a then 19-year-old Jon Bon Jovi, who ends up singing on "R2-D2 We Wish You A Merry Christmas." At the time, the then John Bon Jovi swept floors at New York City recording studio Power Station, run by Jon's cousin Tony Bon Jovi. As Meco auditioned singers for *Christmas in the Stars*, Tony suggested Jon for one of the lead vocal parts!



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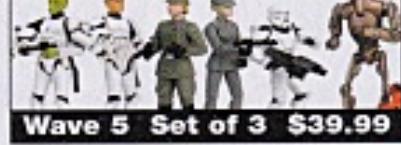
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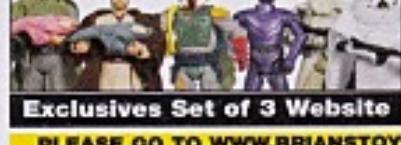
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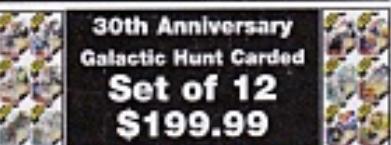
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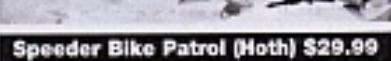
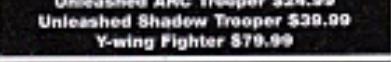
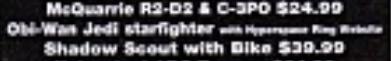
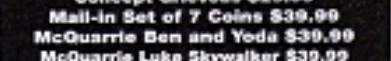
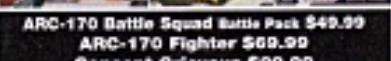
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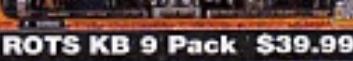
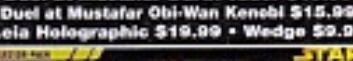
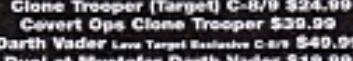
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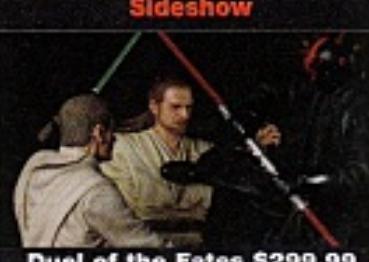
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MAESTRO **RICHARD EDLUND** LOOKS
BACK AT THE MAKING OF A *NEW HOPE*.

Richard Edlund is one of the most decorated special effects experts in Hollywood. Having won an Oscar for his work on the original *Star Wars*, he was awarded special achievement Academy Awards for his accomplishments on *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. Not that working within the Lucas universe is Edlund's sole claim to fame. Indeed, the artist gained further Oscar nominations for his work on films such as *Poltergeist*, *Die Hard* and *Ghostbusters*.

Insider: What can you tell us about your beginnings in the movie special effects industry?

Richard Edlund: I came out of the Navy and went to the University of Southern California where I studied film. There I became interested in visual effects. Just before *Star Wars* I had been working with Bob Abel, who had been breaking new ground since his work on Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. I was working on this very expensive robotic photography with him: we were basically doing some animated graphic camerawork. We had a really good gang back then, which included Dick Alexander; he was a machinist who went on to work on *Star Trek*. He was working alongside me and we built a new camera with Abel.

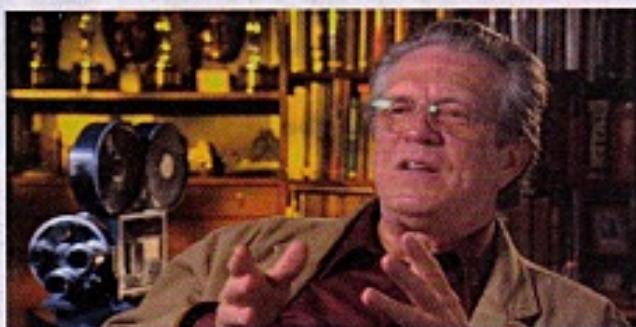
We only had one "cameraman" at the time, a guy called David Stewart, and he went off to work for Steven Spielberg and shoot *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. That work led to me becoming the first cameraman employed at Industrial Light & Magic (ILM).

How did you come to be involved with *Star Wars*?

Dick Alexander and myself were among the first people brought in by George Lucas on *Star Wars*, which was a two year project. I also need to mention Gary Kurtz, the producer, because without him there would be no ILM as we know it today. He really understood what it was that we were trying to do. After meeting George, we began



Then & Now:
Richard Edlund (below, today)
and in action on *Star Wars*.



building equipment to shoot the special effects that he was after. It took us nine months before we could even begin to film anything. You see, a very complicated mechanical system had to be built in order to shoot the sort of effects that George wanted. I was working with Don Trumbull at the time, and Don would take my concepts and then come back two days later with engineering drawings. Optical designer David Grafton designed a special lens to shoot the movie. George had been over in England for a while, shooting, and when he came back we began to talk. I explained the limitations of what we could do and also the benefits in investing in this new technology. At the time we were looking at a camera with a 22 field viewing grid: that allowed us to position things, like model work and so on. Getting it all up and running was a gargantuan task.

What were you thinking during the pre-production period? Were you aware that you could be working on one of the most successful pictures of all time and reinvigorating the sci-fi genre?

Yeah—to an extent. If you remember, *Jaws* was the big money-maker back then. That was the movie that we all wanted to surpass at the box office. I think that George made some great casting decisions as well and they helped his movie enormously. Obviously Alec Guinness was a big one, but there was also Harrison Ford

as the John Wayne character. I thought he was excellent and such a good choice. After the cast was in place, I became even more excited.

You were working with fellow Oscar-winning special effects guru John Dykstra back then.

Yes I was. Even though the budget was tight, especially as we had to build essential optical printers, I remember that John Dykstra pulled together a great team. For example, we had groundbreaking motion control photography. I also insisted on using bluescreen, where John was leaning more towards the front light/back light technique when it came to shooting the special effects. That only really works if the objects in front of the camera are not moving. However, if you have bluescreen you can begin extracting things from the picture. The flow of movement becomes much more believable. We had a great motion control system. That was absolutely necessary. In fact, some of the best shot in the film were, ironically, the ones that took the least time to do. The famous hyperspace shot, when the Millennium Falcon speeds off: that was shot at 32 frames and it lasts for a little over a second onscreen. I did that as a test, but we ended up using it. It only took me about two hours to shoot! Audiences always cheered that shot. It was one of the biggest cheers in the picture! To do that we took a four by five [inch] color Polaroid of the Millennium Falcon and put it on glass, then we zoomed away from it! Believe it or not, that is what got us such big applause. All credit to George because dramatically he set that scene up brilliantly.

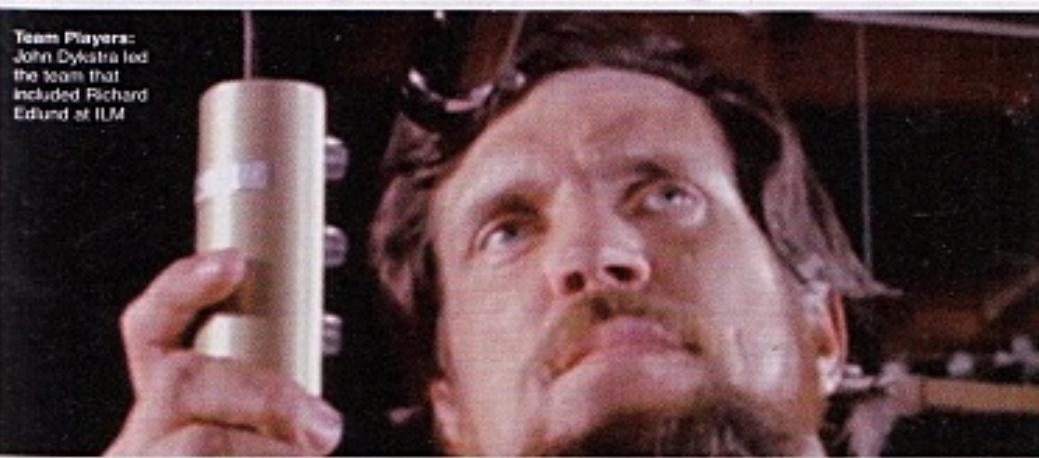
What did you feel about the 1997 Special Edition of *Star Wars*, with brand new digital effects added?

There were lots of rumors at the time about what George might have added and deleted. I thought, "Well, it's his movie and I hope it comes out good whatever he has done." The one thing that did worry me was a story





Team Players:
John Dykstra led the team that included Richard Edlund at ILM



that he was going to alter that opening shot of the spaceship, and that was my shot! That model was 38 inches long, an entire meter. It was hard to film.

Later, George told me it was the landspeeder sequence that caused him to do the Special Edition. There is a scene on Tatooine where Mark [Hamill, as Luke Skywalker] and Alec [Guiness, as Obi-Wan Kenobi] are travelling along on this landspeeder.

In the original film there was this big print puddle underneath the vehicle. An old British three-wheel car had been converted into the landspeeder, but we had to get rid of the wheels. The only way to do that pre-digital was with Vaseline on the print, although we sent it to the best animators at the time.

George even took it to Disney, and no one could find a way to match the color of the sand and paint over the wheels of the car. It became very annoying to us. Well George told me that when he began to digitally delete that puddle of Vaseline he started to see all of these other little things that he could alter.

Did you feel the CGI benefited the film?

George always saw Mos Eisley as being a bit like the old West, but instead of horses



EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

JOHN DYKSTRA

John Dykstra is a two-time Academy Award-winning special effects supervisor and pioneer in the development of the use of computers in film making. He worked with Douglas Trumbull on *Silent Running*. On *Star Wars*, Dykstra led the development at Industrial Light & Magic of the motion-controlled camera, responsible for many of the groundbreaking effects. Dykstra won Academy Awards for best special effects and special technical achievement. He went on to work on a variety of projects, including the first two *Spider-Man* films, winning an Oscar for *Spider-Man 2*.

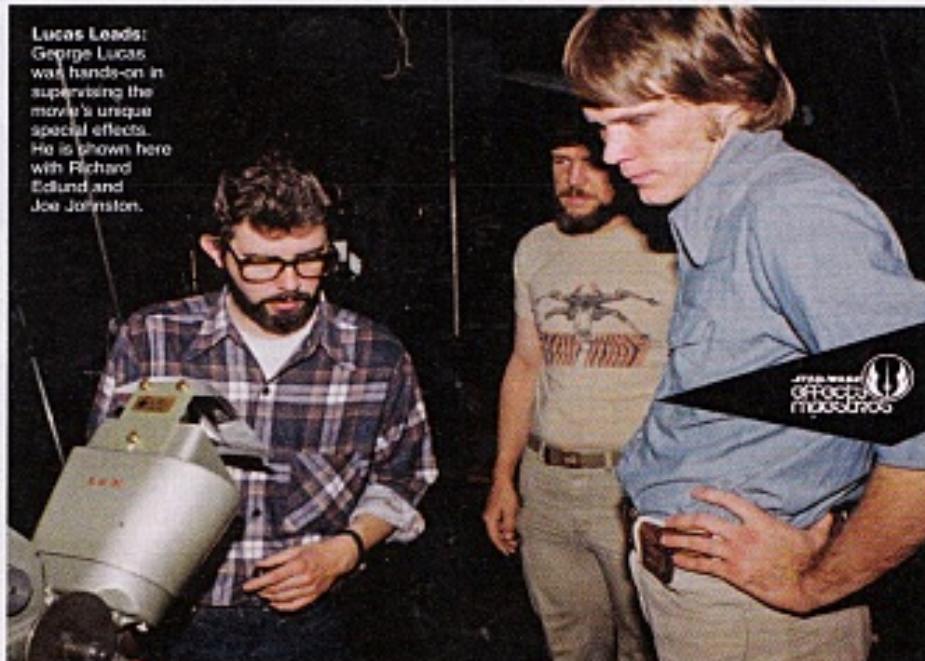
"Some of the best shots in the film were, ironically, the ones that took the least time to do. The famous hyperspace shot, when the *Millennium Falcon* speeds off, only took me about two hours to shoot!"

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

DON TRUMBULL

Donald Trumbull (1909-2004) was a pioneer in the field of motion picture special effects, who worked on many films including *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Silent Running* (1972, directed by his special effects creator son Douglas Trumbull), *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope* (1977), and *Spaceballs* (1987).

Lucas Leads:
George Lucas was hands-on in supervising the movie's unique special effects. He is shown here with Richard Edlund and Joe Johnston.



they have these monsters tied up outside. So back in 1977 he had one elephant dressed up in a behemoth costume. In the Special Edition, there are things everywhere! There is always the temptation to overdo it.

You were not involved with the later Star Wars prequels.

I felt like I had spent eight years of my life on *Star Wars* and the two sequels. I had given a lot of my ideas and energy to it. When I found out George was going to make *The Empire Strikes Back*, I made a deal with myself to do the whole trilogy. I am the only person from that period to have Academy Awards from all three films. After *Return of the Jedi*, I wanted to do other things and I did. I did *Ghostbusters*, *2010*, and *Ghost* and about 30 other movies. I remain very proud of them all.

Do you have a particular favorite movie you have worked on, besides *Star Wars*?

A recent film that I worked on, which I am very proud of, is *Angels in America*, which is not even a special effects movie. I have enjoyed working on *Charlie Wilson's War* with Mike Nichols as well. Again, that isn't a genre picture, but it was a lot of fun. I do think that the original *Ghostbusters* is just about damn near perfect in terms of visual effects and so is the first *Die Hard*. I loved doing those. And there was *Species* as well. So I have a lot of favorites, but, of course, I'm very appreciative to George Lucas and *Star Wars*. I have some great memories.

And three Oscars!

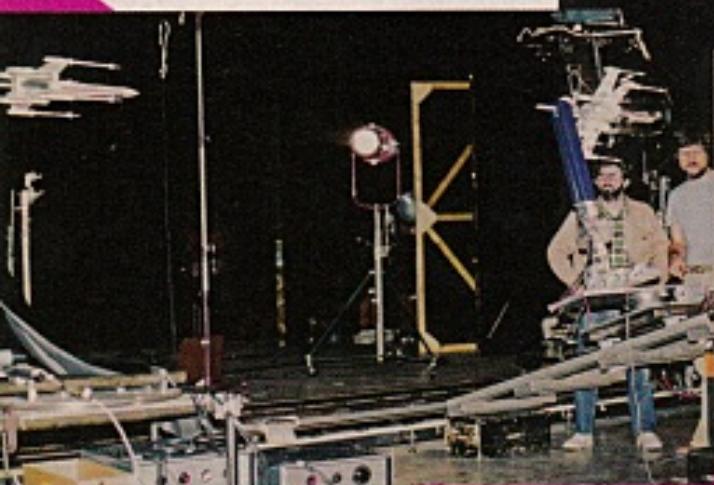
Yeah, exactly! ☺



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EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

THE BEST OF EDLUND

Although *Star Wars* reinvigorated the sci-fi genre and made previously unimaginable special effects possible, Richard Edlund's CV worked on some other genre classics. We pick a few of the best:

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981): Cited as the Visual Effects Supervisor, Edlund famously helped to perfect the ghoulily gruesome finale to Spielberg's classic Saturday morning serial throwback as the Nazis open the Ark and all hell breaks loose! Amazingly, Edlund's gory handiwork still managed to obtain a PG rating.

Poltergeist (1982): Another stint with Spielberg, Edlund had the challenge of making faces disintegrate and ghosts burst forth from television sets in the pre-digital effects age.

Ghostbusters (1984): Cited by the man himself as one of his favorites, and no wonder! Even with today's photorealistic CGI, the Marshmallow Man, a levitating Sigourney Weaver, and Slimer, the green ghoul, are still truly spellbinding accomplishments.

STAR WARS
effects maestro

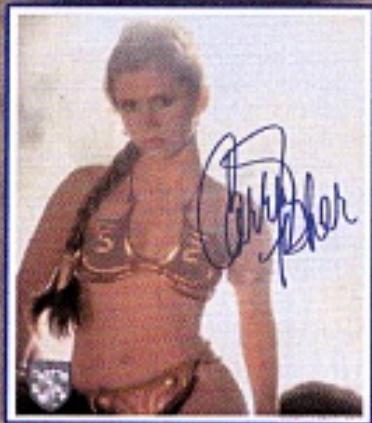
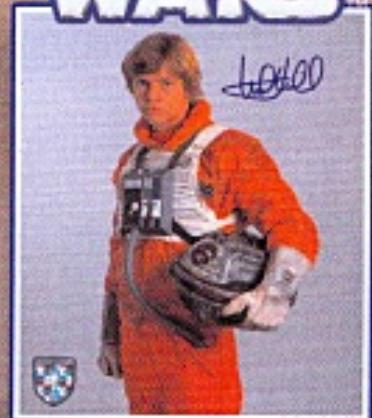
"When I found out George was going to make *The Empire Strikes Back*, I made a deal with myself to do the whole trilogy. I am the only person from that period to have Academy Awards from all three films."

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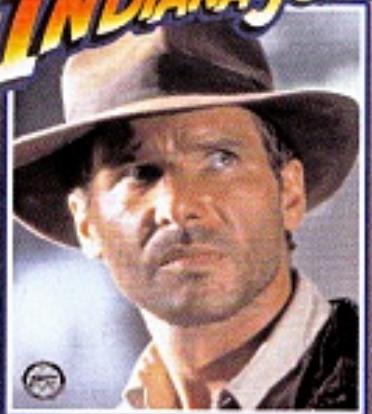
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**STAR
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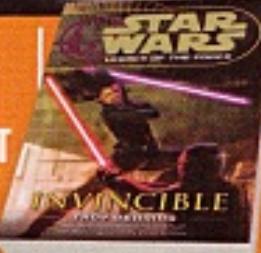
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Steve Sansweet's
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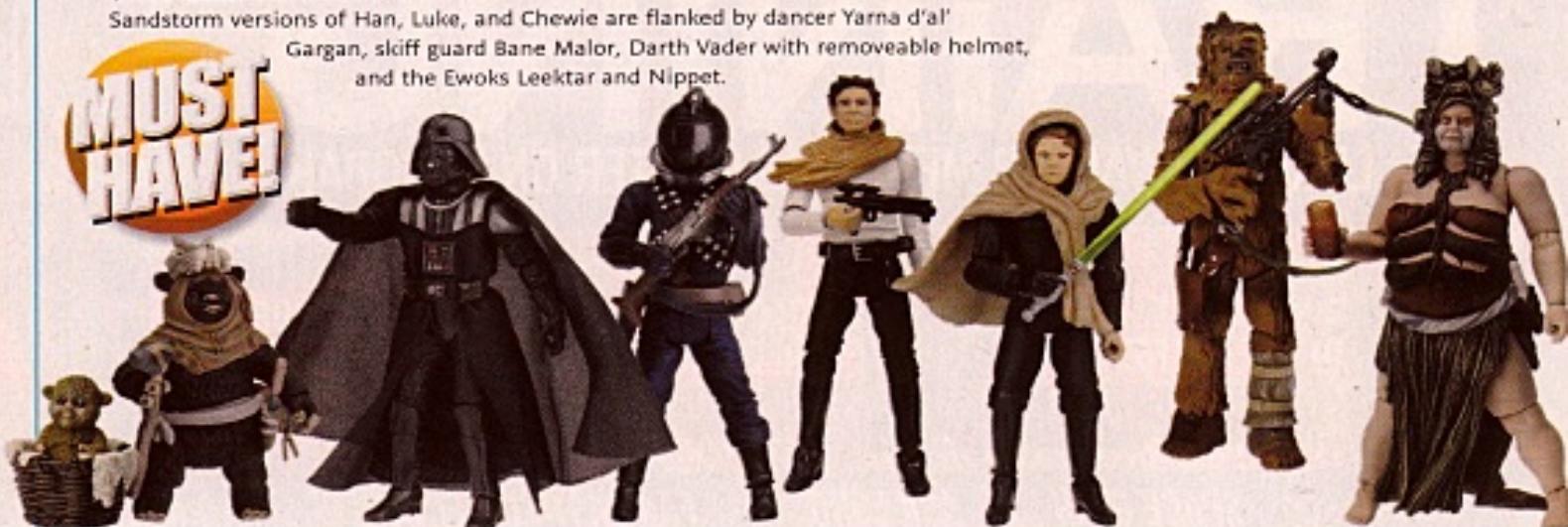
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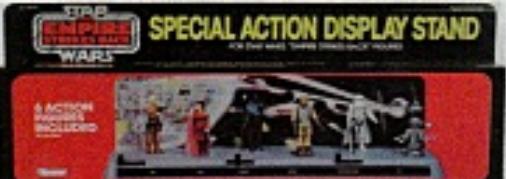
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BOOKS

TROY DENNING BRINGS *LEGACY OF THE FORCE* TO A DRAMATIC CONCLUSION WORDS: JASON FRY



LEGACY OF THE FORCE
PLOT DETAILS REVEALED

CHARACTER STUDIES

The Star Wars saga continues to develop characters from the original trilogy and the Expanded Universe in *Legacy of the Force*.

Words: Brigid Cherry

Luke Skywalker is now in his 60s and has reluctantly become the Jedi Grand Master. His relationship with his son Ben, born to Luke and Mara Jade, has not been easy. Ben looks up to his cousin Jacen Solo, but his apprenticeship to Jacen leads Ben onto paths his father cannot approve of. This proves traumatic as Ben begins to suspect Jacen of dangerous leanings. The murder of Mara causes deep grief for both father and son.

Luke's twin sister, Leia Organa Solo, has become a fully-fledged Jedi Knight, though it is her diplomatic skills that she often prefers, when she is not co-piloting the Millennium Falcon with her husband. Although Han is now in his 70s, he shows no sign of slowing down. Embroiled in the Corellian independence movement and taking a stand against their son Jacen leads to Han and Leia being outlawed. Jacen, traumatized by the Yuuzhan Vong, is turning to the dark side. He eventually rejects his twin sister Jaina as well as his parents and Ben, and then ensnares the young Jedi Knight Tahiri Veila. a

TWIN TORMENT

Over nine books, the *Legacy of the Force* series has given readers a ringside seat for a galaxy once again torn apart by war—and a family once again facing unimaginable loss.

Jacen Solo, once the hero of the struggle against the Yuuzhan Vong, has been lost to the dark side, transformed into the Sith Lord Darth Caedus. Having already seen one child die, Han Solo and Leia Organa Solo have come to terms with the heart-rending idea that another child of theirs must die, lest the galaxy be plunged into further darkness. Worse, Han and Leia must face the possibility of losing their third child, for Jaina Solo has taken it on herself to eliminate the threat posed by her twin brother.

Jaina's hunt for Jacen dominates the action in Troy Denning's *Invincible* (Del Rey, \$27), but it's not the only story that unfolds in the finale of the series crafted by Denning, Aaron Allston, and Karen Traviss. Boba Fett is back, leading the Mandalorians in battle and trying to do the same in what passes for peacetime for those armored warriors. Luke Skywalker must find a way to contain the dark

side without letting it infect his new generation of Jedi, particularly his teenage son Ben, Jacen's former apprentice. As you'd expect from a Star Wars tale, there's plenty of scenes that would be jaw-droppers on the big screen, from the clash of fleets in the Roche system and firefights between Mandalorians and stormtroopers to Jacen and Jaina's long-awaited duel.

Jacen and Jaina stand at the center of the book. As Denning puts it succinctly, "the story is about Jaina

"The story is about Jaina hunting down her brother. When she attacks Caedus, it won't be some monster she sees in front of her. It will be her brother."

hunting down her brother." But that's not just a matter of tactics. It's also about Jaina's struggle to come to terms with what remains of the bond between the twins.

"For anyone close to a sibling, it's easy to imagine the tangle of memories that must blur her thoughts," Denning says, adding, "Her parents think of Jacen as 'already dead' and view Darth Caedus as the monster who has taken his place, which is the only way they can handle the horror of setting one child against another. Jaina doesn't have that luxury. When she attacks Caedus, it won't be some

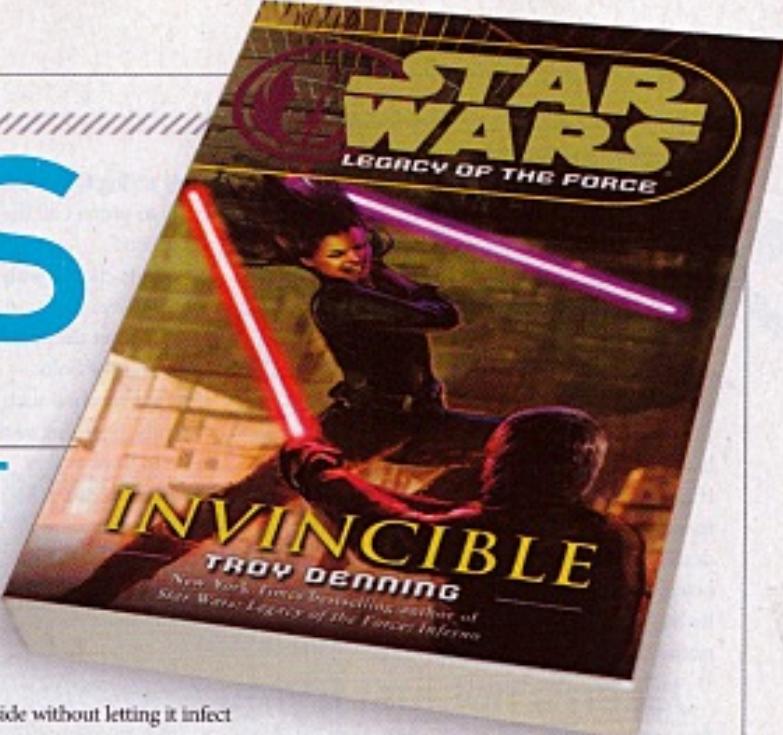
monster she sees in front of her. It will be her brother."

Invincible is steeped in loss. Each chapter begins with one of the juvenile jokes that were a Jacen specialty in the *Young Jedi Knights* series. They're poignant reminders of what's been lost, and what haunts Jaina. "Only Jaina feels Jacen's anguish," Denning says, adding, "For Jaina, Jacen doesn't deserve to be hunted out of hatred or vengeance. Stopping him should be an act of love, and that is the duty she takes on herself."

A question certain to be debated by Star Wars fans is whether the Jacen we see in *Invincible* is truly lost, or still retains a spark of humanity. Intriguingly, Denning sees Jacen as "still the same person at heart >>>

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BOOKS continued...

as when he was a teenage student," pointing out that Jacen was always more interested in making peace than in battle; even after his ordeal as a Vong captive he was key to preventing their annihilation after the galactic invasion.

Peace, Denning says, "remains his goal. The only thing that's changed is what he's willing to do to achieve it. After witnessing democratic governments fail to bring a lasting peace to the galaxy, he has concluded that there's nothing to be lost in trying a

"Jacen's not just trying to protect himself, he's trying to protect all the innocents of the galaxy."

different approach: one that demands a far greater sacrifice."

In one of *Invincible's* most intriguing scenes, Ben muses that it wasn't power that drove his cousin mad. What opened the door to the dark side was Jacen's belief that nothing he did mattered.

"He's grown up in a galaxy where good intentions seem ineffective, where no amount of compromise, negotiation, or even 'civilized' fighting ever seems to produce a lasting peace," Denning says. "He's bright enough to see that this is because those with selfish intentions don't feel restrained by the rules of common decency. So he takes the logical step and decides that the only way to achieve a true peace is to ignore the rules himself and impose peace from the top down. What he fails to see, of course, is that it's really the struggle that counts, that how one chooses to fight is just as important as what he's fighting for."

Now, add to that Jacen's suffering at the hands of the Vong. "One of the most frightening aspects of any traumatic experience is the loss of control that the victim feels, and some victims protect themselves later by trying to control their environments to an unhealthy degree," Denning says. "In my mind, that's what happened to

Jacen. He's not just trying to protect himself, he's trying to protect all the innocents of the galaxy."

Invincible reaches its climax with a three-way battle between fleets in space, soldiers on a planet deep in the Hapes Cluster, and the Solo twins. Asked if he approached such key scenes differently, Denning says "I like every scene to have a clear purpose that furthers the story. So, whenever I write any scene, I start by asking myself questions to make sure I know why it's important and what it needs to accomplish."

However, he says, that process

often makes climactic scenes a different writing experience. "If I've done well with the scenes leading to the climax, what I need to accomplish there is usually very obvious," he says. "In most of the previous scenes, I'm trying to advance the plot and develop the characters. That's all finished by the time I get to the climax. I'm free to concentrate on making the climax exciting. Which, in the case of an action scene, usually means fast-paced and deadly." ☀

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

The Hapes Cluster: A grouping of several hundred stars within the area of nebulous gases known as the Trassitory Nests within the Inner Rim. It was once an impediment to hyperspace navigation that kept the stars of the cluster isolated from the rest of the Galaxy.

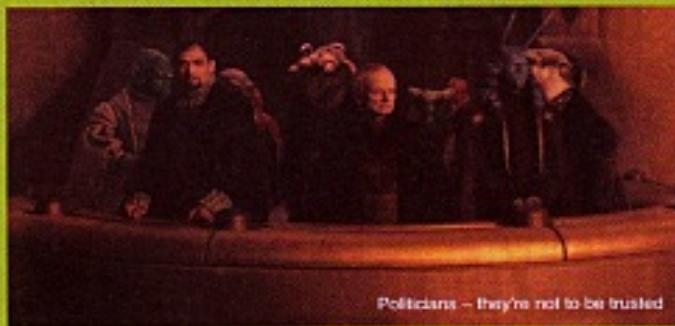
HIDDEN CONNECTIONS

Major events are throwing the galaxy into upheaval, although the *Legacy of the Force* series clearly parallels events from the movies. Words: Brigid Cherry

Fifteen years after the invasion by the Yuuzhan Vong, many planets including Coruscant are still recovering. The Galactic Alliance replaced the New Republic but despite attempts at reconstruction and peace, some planets resist the imposition of order. Corellia, in particular, is unhappy at being prevented from operating an independent military. Strike and counter-strike are followed by

ASK LOBOT

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Politicians – they're not to be trusted

ASK LOBOT

At the end of *Attack of the Clones* we see a group of politicians on a balcony. Who exactly are they? Three are Bail Organa, Palpatine, and Mas Amedda. Could you confirm if the other Senators are Onaconda Farr (perhaps the Rodian is Dar Wac?), Gorothin Vagger, Ask Aak, and Gume Saam? If not, who are they? We have a Sy Myrthian, but didn't Sy Myrth leave the Republic during the Separatist Crisis. Who is the Sy Myrthian? Is he or she the Senator of a Sy Myrthian colony that remains loyal to the Republic?

Tim Veldhoven, Belgium by e-mail

Beside the three Senators you listed, the Rodian is Onaconda Farr; the Aqualish is Gorothin Vagger; the Gran is Ask Aak; the Ishi Tib is Gume Saam; and the Sy Myrthian is Toonuck Toora. During production, the Toonuck Toora costume was used in the Geonosis Conference Room scene. An image of Toora from this scene appeared as a George Lucas Selects image. During post-production, the character was replaced with a CG character dubbed by Production as "Gatorhead." Gatorhead became a female Hothwuff named Rogwa Wodrata from the planet Alliga. Toora was reinserted later, appearing in the closing balcony scene. By then, the continuity introducing the Sy Myrthians as Separatists had been released. There has been some suggestion that the Toonuck Toora we see on Geonosis was actually a Shyrado shape-shifter involved in a duplicitous ploy to bring Sy Myrth to the Confederacy. In that scenario, the plot is ultimately foiled, leaving the planet firmly loyal to the Republic.

SPOILER WARNING! LEGACY OF THE FORCE PLOT DETAILS REVEALED

several planets joining Corellia to form a Confederation. A new civil war begins. This recalls resistance fighters versus the Empire.

After coming to the conclusion that only Sith rule can unite the galaxy, by force if necessary, Jacen Solo becomes an apprentice to the Sith Lady Lumiya. As head of the Galactic Alliance Guard, he fights a war against terror, rounding up all who oppose him, and engineering

a military coup when he deposes the president Cal Omas. After Omas' death, the Jedi split with the Alliance, leave Coruscant, and go into hiding. After murdering Mara Jade, Jacen's fall to the dark side is complete and he becomes Darth Caedus. Further tragedies follow as Jacen burns Kashyyyk, kidnaps his own daughter, and starts to behave in a manner reminiscent of his grandfather, Darth Vader.

COMICS

FAMILY MATTERS OF A DIFFERENT SORT FEATURE IN *STAR WARS LEGACY'S* "HOME" WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE



67

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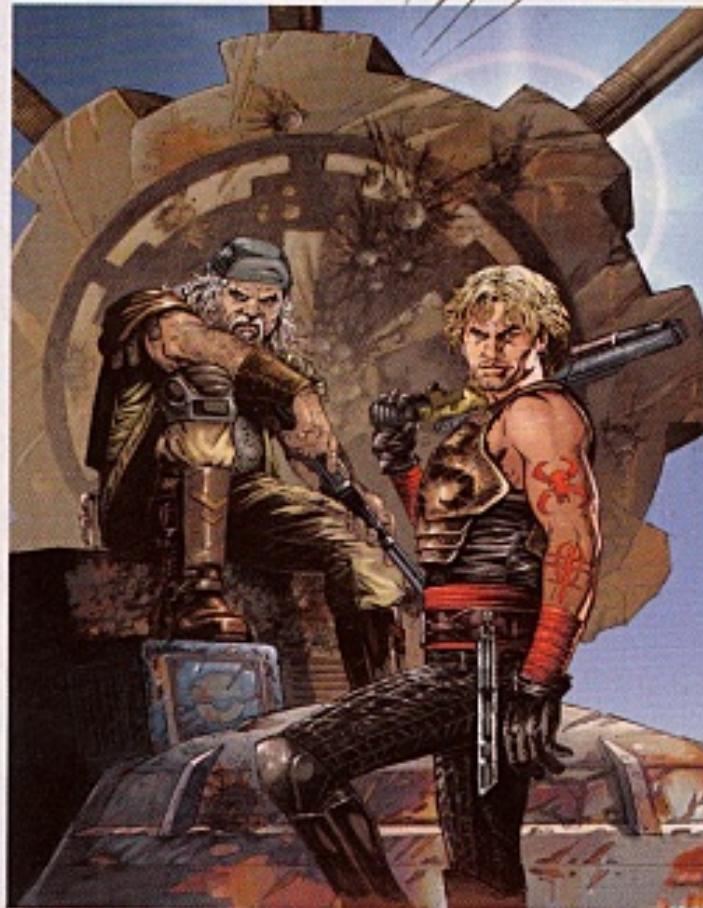


TIES THAT BIND

Admit it: when it comes to families, the *Star Wars* saga leaves a lot to be desired. Anakin abandons his mother, interrogates his daughter, and tries to kill his son. Jango's little boy is a vat-grown clone of his pop. And don't get us started on Luke and Leia's mistaken-identity attraction.

Okay, maybe blood ties aren't everything. You don't have to be related to form a family, and bonds of a different sort take center stage in the latest *Star Wars Legacy* arc. "Home," covering issues #22-23, centers on a fateful decision by Cade Skywalker to end Darth Krayt's reign once and for all, but it's grounded in strong family units: the kinds that are chosen, not inherited.

"We all have two kinds of family in our life, the family we're born into and the family we make," says writer John Ostrander. *Legacy's* Cade Skywalker is a loner and an antihero, orphaned when the Sith murdered his father during the massacre of Ossus' Jedi Temple. Yet his time on the run led him to outlaw technician "Bantha" Rawk and his motley clan of cast-offs; his spitfire Kiffar wife Duro; her beautiful and dangerous daughter Ahnab; the adopted, Force-sensitive Skeeto; and Micah, a young Cathar adoptee with



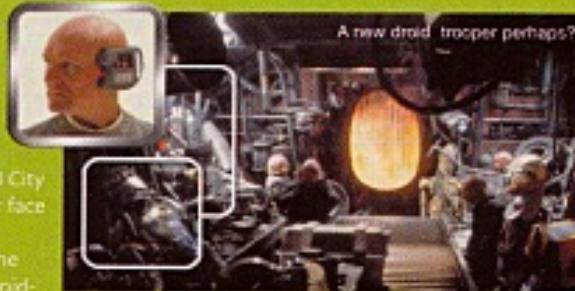
"We all have two kinds of family in our life, the family we're born into and the family we make."

— writer John Ostrander

In the scene where we see Chewbacca in the junk room in Cloud City in *The Empire Strikes Back*, there's something that looks like blue stormtrooper armor to the side. It also looks like a robot. What is this?

Chris by e-mail

Good eye. Strewn amongst the debris in the Cloud City junk room, the upper torso of a droid with a silver face plate can be seen. The body and arms actually resemble blue metallic stormtrooper armor, but the jutting wires definitely suggest that this thing is droid-like in nature. There has been some desire internally to give a name and backstory to the droid, but as of yet, nothing has been officially established.



ASK LOBOT

cybernetic legs.

Says artist Jan Duursema, "Bantha and his clan are the closest thing to family for Cade. He never knew his mother, though by now he has at least met her, and at some point he had to find Bantha after the fall of Ossus. John and I knew a lot about Bantha, but what kind of woman would be find compatible? Duro is a rare, one of a kind woman who can kill a man a dozen different ways before breakfast, as well as make a mean bilaberry patoga. The 'kits' were also fun to invent and each has their own personality. I see the Rawks as another layer in Cade's life where he can go when things get too hot."

SERVING THE FORCE

The development of the Rawk clan came easily according to Ostrander, who explains that the process was less about invention than about pulling characters into focus. "In a way, Jan and I are mama and papa to the whole flamin' lot!"

There's another surrogate "family" that exists in the *Star Wars* galaxy: the Jedi Order. In the days of the Old Republic, the Jedi took Force-sensitive babies from their parents to be raised in the Jedi Temple. The bond between Master and Padawan was as strong as that between a parent and child, yet by the time of *Legacy* the Jedi are decimated and scattered. Filling their role are the Imperial Knights, one of *Legacy's* most fascinating contributions to the *Star Wars* canon.

"Jedi serve the Force and, in their own way, so do the Imperial Knights," says Ostrander, describing the armored warriors that wield their lightsabers in defense of the Empire. "The Jedi felt that the Force was served by establishing peace

COMICS continued...

throughout the galaxy and so they allied themselves with the Republic. The Imperial Knights also want to do that, but they think the reborn Empire is the means by which peace will be created. The Empire is embodied, literally, in the Emperor, and the Imperial Knights believe that by enacting his will they will best know and serve the Force."

In the movie saga, the ties between father and son allowed Luke to bring Vader back from the dark side. And although Cade Skywalker is Luke's descendant, he isn't Luke. More importantly, he shares no filial bond with Darth Krayt. For Cade and Krayt, reconciliation isn't on the table.

"Luke and Vader's story is one of a wayward father redeemed," explains Duursema. "Cade and Krayt have a different sort of affiliation." Adds Ostrander, "Luke could turn Vader only because of the ties between them. We've seen just how merciless and dangerous Krayt can get when mad. Cade understands that, so long as Krayt lives, the Sith Order will be intact and Cade will never know peace. Cade is not concerned about redeeming Krayt or about saving the galaxy, when you come right down to it. He wants people to leave him alone. He wants to live his life on his own terms, not anyone else's. Krayt needs to die. Now, whether or not he can do that is an entirely different question. Cade's gotten himself in over his head before. We'll see if it happens again."



As *Legacy* hits its two-year mark, the series that sounded outrageous at its outset (Star Wars 100 years in the future?) has attracted a loyal fan base through solid storytelling and regular surprises. As the characters have evolved, they've even grown on their creators. "Cade is so much more than I initially saw him as," admits Duursema. "He really rankled me at first, but with each story we have done, I have seen more of his personality revealed. That's not to say that at times I don't think he wouldn't suffer much for a whack upside his head, but I am enjoying the journey."

Ostrander points out that *Legacy* couldn't happen without the continued collaboration of Dark

Horse editor Randy Stradley and Lucasfilm. "Sure, sometimes there have been disagreements, but answers have always been found and they have always made for better stories. We're all real clear about where we're going through the end of this year and, by the time the fans read this, we'll have some real good ideas for 2009. But where will we end up? We've barely started to scratch the surface. We're ongoing, baby! This ride hasn't hit the big twist yet."

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

Darth Krayt served as a General during the Clone Wars and was one of the few Jedi to have escaped the Great Purge. He fell to the dark side, proclaimed himself Darth Krayt, and became the leader of the new Sith Order.



CLOUD CITY'S COMPUTER LIAISON OFFICER ANSWERS ALL YOUR STAR WARS QUERIES

I have a question about "Soldiers of the Empire" from *Star Wars Official Poster Monthly*, issue #4 (1978). This is the first source to claim that stormtroopers are clones, although it apparently fell deep into obscurity. It also says that clones are removed as fetuses after 60 weeks of gestation and trained. Is this considered official continuity? If so, what kind of cloning process is this describing? It's not Sparta cloning. Lukevanhorn, by e-mail



Another great find by one of our readers! Until now I was unaware that any official Star Wars source pre-*Episode II* said conclusively that stormtroopers were



clones. For continuity purposes, we can certainly consider this method as one of several cloning technologies employed by the Empire after the end of the Clone Wars to grow stormtroopers, but it is not Sparta cloning or any of the other cloning methods already established. We'll just have to wait and see whether any future authors will want to use this source as reference to explore this cloning process in detail.

INCOMING

May 14

STAR WARS: DARK TIMES #11
Mick Harrison, Dave McCaig, Douglas Wheatley, and Travis Charest

Beginning the second phase in a year-long, galaxy-changing storyline, part five of "Vector" puts the smuggling crew of the *Dark Times* in their toughest predicament yet.

STAR WARS: REBELLION #14
Jeremy Barlow, Colin Wilson, and Will Glass

Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia lead a team of Rebels to their destinies in the full-fledged conclusion to the "Small Victories" arc!

May 21

STAR WARS: CLONE WARS PHOTO COMIC

This 96-page manga-sized volume adapts the first *Star Wars: Clone Wars* animated series using images directly from the Emmy Award-winning micro-series!

STAR WARS: LEGACY #25

John Ostrander, Jan Duursema, Dan Parsons, and Brad Anderson
Introduces a surprising new member to the *Legacy* cast!

May 28

KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC #29

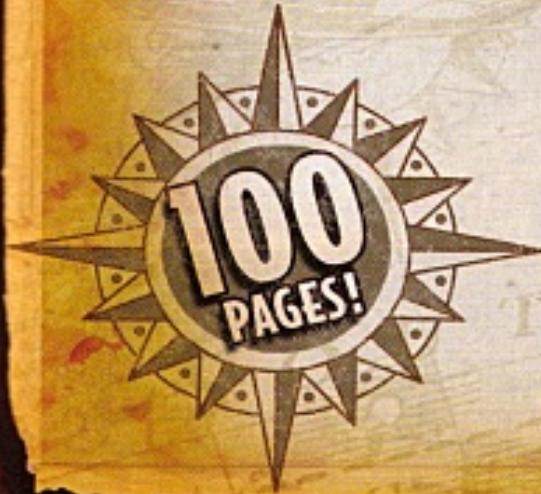
John Jackson Miller, Greg Rucka, Michael Alyn, and Dustin Weaver
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SCOUTING....

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SANSWEET'S VIEW

What's your very favorite item in your collection? I've been asked that question so many times that you'd think I'd have a ready answer, my version of a politician's constantly-repeated stump speech. Sometimes, if the person asking the question is a parent, I'll say, "That's like me asking you which of your three kids is your favorite." Sometimes I'll say that I really love the entire category of fan-made items because they show the passion, creativity, and skill of so many *Star Wars* fans all over the world; then I might mention something that a skilled customizer has made or a prize-winning entry in craft contest, which I later purchased. And sometimes I'll answer, only half jokingly, "Whatever arrived in the mail today!"

Truth be told, I do have favorites. But they change over time as I discover new things or rediscover old ones. As I write this, my overwhelming favorite is Yoshitoku's Darth Vader Samurai Armor. Through a blending of traditional Japanese artistry and the modern-day iconography of the Dark Lord of the Sith, the venerable Yoshitoku Company has truly merged the cultures of two worlds and two eras. Yoshitoku was started in 1711 and today is run by an 11th generation heir of the company's founder; so while *Star Wars* has been celebrating its 30th anniversary, the company will soon be celebrating its 300th! The oldest doll company in Japan, Yoshitoku is renowned for its traditional dolls made for Japan's Boys' Day festivals. One of the day's traditions is for a family to display Samurai armor and helmet to protect the boy's spirit and insure his health and prosperity.

Since one of concept designer Ralph

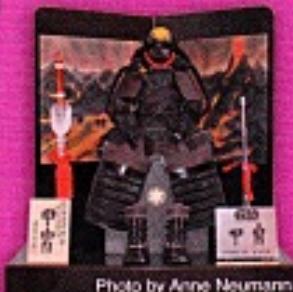


Photo by Anne Neumann

McQuarrie's initial inspirations for the look of Vader came from the noble samurai of Japanese tradition, the high-end armor collectible seems very fitting. It took more than a year to go from idea to concept to finished prototype, and Yoshitoku made two versions of Vader: The complete version includes the yoroi (armor) and kabuto

(helmet); the smaller version is just the helmet display. Both come with elaborate hitsu (the lid-covered container on which the quarter-scale replica sits) and a magnificent byōbu (folding screen) that uses traditional Japanese style to portray the fierce lava planet of Mustafar in black, red, and gold.

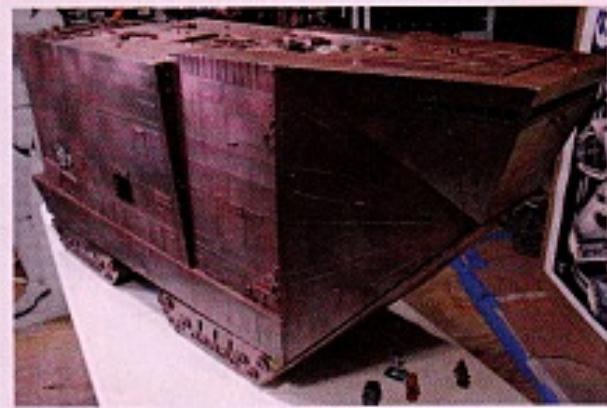
Both versions of Vader come with a time-honored Japanese bow and a sword scaled to size, with red lacquer paint to emulate the color of a Sith lightsaber blade. I ordered my Samurai Vader when it was first introduced last year and patiently waited several months while its more than 100 metal and cloth pieces were handmade and assembled. Then it sat in its two boxes for a few more months while I figured out where to place it, and also because I thought it might be challenging to assemble (it was not). I finally took advantage of a 56-hour power blackout during the year-end holidays (no email to answer!) to assemble the armor display in my home office across from my desk so that I can admire it constantly. No wonder that *starwars.com* called it the collectible of the year... or maybe that's because it comes with its own white gloves and white feather duster for handling and cleaning! ☺

ATTACK OF THE GIANT SANDCRAWLER

Last week, I was browsing through an online *Star Wars* message board and saw photos of something that astonished me: Among the *Star Wars* collection photos of a collector from Brooklyn there is a photo of a GIANT Jawa sandcrawler surrounded by Hasbro 3-3/4 inch figures. The caption says that the vehicle is an amazing 2-1/2 feet tall and five feet long! It's got a removable side panel that reveals the droid storage area, and a big front ramp that opens and closes. It even has working lights! I had no idea that Hasbro made these big sandcrawlers, and I'd like to get one for my collection. The trouble is I can't seem to get any official

information. Only the Diamond Exclusive vehicle comes up when I do an internet or eBay search under "Hasbro sandcrawler." Can you shed some light on this collectible? When was it released, how much does it cost, and how can I get one? David Torres, Newark, NJ USA

What if I said in two years and, oh, maybe \$6,000-plus? Sorry David, but in your excitement you didn't read far enough. This incredible piece is a custom job built by a model-maker in South America and now owned by Roberto "Darklord" Williams of Brooklyn, NY according to his postings and photos. I've seen some of the model-maker's



HASBRO'S HELP

In the Scouting the Galaxy letter "Gone Missing" a guy was looking for parts for a gunship. It wasn't mentioned, but I thought I'd point out that you can still get some parts from Hasbro. I recently got parts to a gunship and Anakin's Clone Wars fighter from there for very little cost. Hope that helps! Jonathan Hern, St Charles, IL USA

It does indeed, Jonathan. Anyone can go to www.hasbro.com, click on Customer Service, and then either fill out a form, send an email, or get a telephone number to check if your missing or broken part is still available to order.



Photos by Roberto Williams

other large custom vehicles on eBay over the years and have salivated myself. Roberto did one better. He bought this from a friend of the model-maker and had the original builder convert it into a "rolling, functioning, steerable RC toy with working treads!" Roberto writes that the sandcrawler is made of hardboard, plastic, fiberglass, and magnetic links to hold removable panels in place. It weighs about 21 pounds, and I can only imagine the cost to ship it to the U.S.

For years many collectors have been beseeching Hasbro to make large play sets and vehicles, but in their wildest fantasies I don't think they imagined anything this large. The cost of building the tooling to mass-produce something this size would be

astronomical, not to mention the cost of materials. How about the box? And where do you think a Toys 'R' Us or Target would find room for them? Would you be willing to rent a truck to haul one home? But we can go on dreaming and thank Roberto for posting the details and photos. He's a long-time collector and customizer with a most impressive collection! Maybe we could get him to bring the sandcrawler along to the next Star Wars Celebration!

THE SITH RETURN... TO TOY STORES!

I recently found a 30th Anniversary Saga Legends *Return of the Sith* clone trooper in a Wal-Mart store that was silver. Is this a variant? I tried to contact Hasbro but have had no luck. I've brought this up on some message boards and no one has heard of this figure. It looks like it's a Toys 'R' Us silver clone trooper repackaged from 2002. The question is, did Hasbro release this or did someone re-package after purchasing? Weird!

Dan Rizzi, Medford, NY USA

Dan, I'm afraid you've answered your own question at the very end of your query. This is not a variation figure, although there have been many legitimate variant clone trooper repacks with different "deco" or other changes. The question is why someone would take the time and trouble to do this... unless they were shooting a hidden-camera fan movie or TV show. You didn't happen to see any suspicious lurkers nearby when you picked this off the peg, did you?



Photo by Dan Curto, rebelscum.com



Photo by Dan Curto, rebelscum.com



WHAT YEAR IS IT?

The other day I got the *Art of Star Wars 2008* calendar. On the January page it says at the very top "20th anniversary." The thing is, this is the 31st anniversary of *Star Wars*. Am I missing something or is it a mistake? I'm 11 years old.

Peyton Charles Fulbright, Great Falls, MT, USA

Thanks for the heads-up Peyton. It's actually still the 30th anniversary year in Japan, where *Star Wars* didn't open until June 1978. However, that's not the issue. Trends International didn't make a mistake. The January art was originally painted by Japanese artist Tsuneo Sanda for the 20th anniversary of our favorite film—a year after you were born.

PIGGY BANK TREASURE!

I have been a *Star Wars* fan since I first saw *A New Hope* when I was seven or eight. Once the prequels came out, I became almost an obsessive fan, collecting everything *Star Wars* that

was interesting to me and unique. I am in college now, but continue to collect items. It's a small collection, but it's grown to five shelves. During a trip in Michigan, I stumbled upon a C-3PO piggy bank



THE GALAXY

SCOUTING continues...

in an antique store. Though it was a little tarnished and dusty, I knew it had to be worth something. On the bottom here are the markings: Star Wars TM USA 1977 Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation. Once I saw that, I knew I had a 30-year-old treasure! Is this piggy bank worth anything? Brittany Staj, New Berlin, WI USA

I'm not sure C-3PO would like being called a piggy but I get your meaning Brittany. You picked up what looks like a nice example of a 1978 Roeman



Ceramics bank. There were three ceramic banks released, and they were among the earliest Star Wars collectibles: Darth Vader, R2-D2, and C-3PO—which is far rarer than the first two. If memory serves, it also came out a while after the first two; perhaps they were having problems with the metallic glaze. The banks came in small cardboard cartons with a color photo of the bank on one side. On eBay recently, a dealer was seeking \$175 or "best offer" for the Threepio bank and the box, both mint. That's probably at least \$75 to \$100 more than it should fetch, but I'd say if you didn't overpay you made a great find!

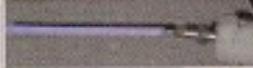
LIGHTS OUT FOR BIG FIG

Last October I purchased a Mickey Mouse Jedi Big Fig. A few weeks ago I noticed that the lightsaber now lights only at the bottom and top; the middle remains unlit. I have tried to find out from Disney who to contact to purchase replacement lightsabers. Unfortunately, nobody is able to help. Can you please tell me who to contact to purchase replacement lightsabers for my Jedi Mickey Big Fig?

Stacey James,
Los Angeles, CA, USA

I'm sorry to have to be the one to tell you that your quest hasn't been successful because Jedi Mickey's lightsaber isn't replaceable, at least not without some knowledge of electronics and a source for the strange tube light that's used. You can carefully unscrew the top of Mickey's lightsaber and slide off the covering of the "blade." There you'll find a 3/8-inch diameter solid light tube a little over six inches long; embedded inside the

tube are as many as nine small LEDs. The bulb appears permanently attached to the top of the lightsaber hilt, or at least well glued in. My guess is that this was specially engineered in China for this piece. It would have been great to have some sort of replaceable light, but when you look at it you'll see why that would have been difficult, if not impossible. LEDs are supposed to give many thousands of hours of illumination before failing; it seems that yours is defective.



Please send your questions and comments about collectibles to: scouting@insider.starwars.com or starwarsinsider@titanemail.com, making sure to put YOUR CITY AND COUNTRY in the email along with your full name.

OR, you may send a written letter to:

[US] Scouting the Galaxy, P.O. Box 2898, Petaluma, CA 94953-2898, USA.
[US] Star Wars Insider, Titan Magazines, 8205 Santa Monica Blvd., #1-296, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5977, USA.

[UK] Star Wars Insider, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP, UK

Letters won't be answered without both your name and city. Individual replies aren't possible because of time constraints, but we'll answer the questions of broadest interest in the column. Letters are edited for grammar, sense, and length.

TOYS

HERE'S SOME NEW *OBJETS D'ART*(OO-DEETOO) TO KEEP YOUR COLLECTION GROWING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WORDS: JEREMY BECKETT

MUST HAVE!

GENTLE GIANT ANIMATED EMPEROR MAQUETTE

This limited edition, nine-inch tall maquette is available from May, priced \$90.



LEGO CLONE WARS MINI-FIGS

For nearly half a decade the Clone Wars rocked the galaxy and led to the downfall of the Republic and the Jedi Order. To tie-in with the new CGI Star Wars: *The Clone Wars* motion picture and television series, LEGO has produced a series of all-new mini-figs, giving *Insider* a first look.

Asajj Ventress: A dark-side disciple and follower of Count Dooku, she is skilled in lightsaber combat and a sworn enemy of the Jedi.

Obi-Wan Kenobi

This Jedi General in the Grand Army of the Republic is ready for combat in his clone trooper armor.



Captain Rex

An ARC Trooper with attitude, this character will play a significant role in the Clone Wars.

Magna Droid

An advanced type of battle droid, formidable enough to take on Jedi and clone troopers with ease.

Commander Cody

A highly trained and experienced trooper, this veteran of more than a dozen major battles commands the Republic's elite forces.

Plo Koon

After serving on the Jedi Council, this Master went on to serve the Republic on countless worlds after surviving the Battle of Geonosis.

Ahsoka Tano

This young female Togruta is Anakin Skywalker's Padawan, and a new force to be reckoned with.

Anakin Skywalker

This headstrong and powerful Force-warrior is equally fearless in his Jedi starfighter and on the ground leading clone troopers.

HASBRO STAR WARS TRANSFORMERS

Vehicle to droid, and back again! Convert the Republic Gunship into a combat droid figure. Features two projectile launchers and a clone pilot figure that fits inside! The Jedi starfighter vehicle turns into a Jedi warrior and comes with two spring-loaded lightsaber projectiles and an Obi-Wan Kenobi pilot figure that fits inside the starfighter!

MUST HAVE!

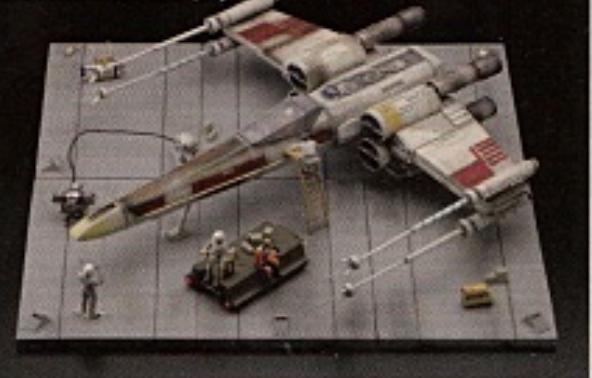


KOTOBUKIYA 3-D CROSS-SECTION X-WING SET

Taking the concept of cross-section illustrations to the realm of three dimensions, Kotobukiya presents the iconic X-wing fighter as the inaugural release in this bold new line. Measuring over a foot in length this 1:35 scale starfighter has cutaway sections that can be removed to reveal the ship's inner workings.

Eight different mini-figures come with this model, including two X-wing pilots, two astromech units, ground crew, mechanics, and more. Accessories such as the mini-convoy, cables, and missile loaders are all part of the final Yavin 4 hanger diorama.

Fully painted and finished to perfection, all you need to do is snap-fit it together. The set is made up of six component parts sold in one master box for \$250, available from this July.



TOYS Я US-SIA

CELEBRATION EUROPE BROUGHT TOGETHER STAR WARS FANS FROM NEARLY EVERY CONTINENT. THEN ONE GROUP FROM THE U.S. DECIDED TO TRAVEL PART OF THE WAY AROUND THE WORLD VIA THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, WITH STOPS IN RUSSIA, MONGOLIA, AND CHINA, PICKING UP STAR WARS COLLECTIBLES EN ROUTE. THIS IS THEIR STORY. WORDS: GUS LOPEZ

ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Immediately after Celebration Europe our gang took off to Riga, Latvia where we spent a day before flying to St. Petersburg, Russia. These days, St. Petersburg is a bustling town with young crowds strolling past newly-restored and brightly-colored buildings housing nearly every branded shop, boutique, and eatery found in the U.S.

Almost immediately we happened upon the Star Wars influence along Nevsky Prospekt, the main drag. One shop had a large Yoda statue out on the street, as an obvious draw with no apparent connection to the store itself. On another trip through the city, a street tattoo artist handed us his card that prominently showed a massive Yoda tattoo on his shoulder.

We spent some time looking at displays by street vendors and asking for tips on flea markets, hoping to find elusive and obscure Star Wars items. We had good luck with street vendors years earlier, finding among other things, unusual hardcover Russian versions of the Star Wars novels. We did find some Episode III keychains

from one magazine vendor in what appeared to be a premium bundled with a magazine that had been printed months earlier. The General Grievous keychain I got included a trading card with the character's image and a release date for the film. Additional searching at retail stores turned up a few other Russian Star Wars items including licensed coloring books from Episodes I and II.

On the final day of our stay, a tip from the hostel staff led us to a wholesale market with every variety of retail goods. A few of the shops offered toys, but we were having difficulty locating any Star Wars items. Eventually, we were able to find one shop that had several bootleg Yoda and Chewbacca action figures in gloriously tacky Russian packaging. These solid, barely-poseable chunks of plastic came on brightly-colored cards with Russian text, and the figures had been molded in non-canonical colors, including, fittingly, a bright red Russian Chewie. We negotiated to buy their entire supply to bring back for friends.

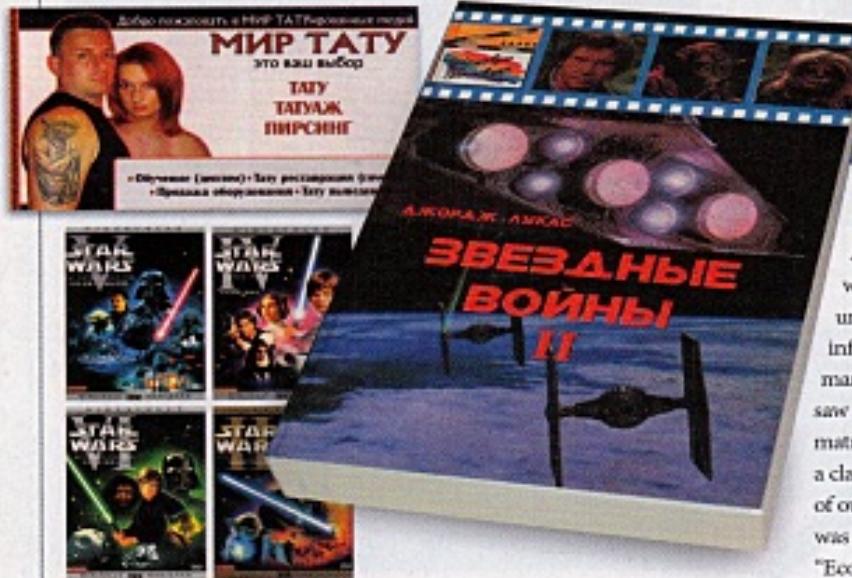


THE GROUP

The group of seven collectible adventurers consisted of Alyssa Loney, Andy Loney, Duncan Jenkins, Anne Jenkins, Mark Salott, Gus Lopez and his wife, Pam.



From left to right: Duncan Jenkins, Anne Jenkins, Gus Lopez, Andy Loney



MOSCOW, RUSSIA

As we moved onto Moscow, we continued to stumble upon unmistakable signs of Star Wars influence. We searched many flea markets and vendor stalls and saw a share of Star Wars-themed matryoshka or "nesting" dolls, a classic Russian collectible. One of our favorite sights in Moscow was VDNK, the former Soviet "Economic Achievement Park"

containing over 80 massive and kitschy monuments and buildings to honor great achievements of the workers' paradise during the Soviet era. History loves irony, so today the park is a shopping mall, with each building containing different categories of retail goods. Not far from the statue of Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin we found a large figure which celebrated another kind of hero: Chewbacca the Wookiee.





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MONGOLCO

INTERN



ULAN BATOR, MONGOLIA

We boarded the Trans-Siberian train in Moscow and spent several days crossing Europe and Asia and seeing dramatic scenery along the way including deserts, mountain ranges, and Lake Baikal in Siberia. About five minutes before we entered Mongolia, Mark, the only non-American among our crew, asked me if Australians need visas for Mongolia. After several minutes of panic, other passengers confirmed that indeed he would need a visa, and Mark was forced off the moving train at gunpoint. After some interesting adventures and an outlay of

cash, he was able to secure a visa at the border and join us on our journey into Mongolia.

We stopped in Ulan Bator to see the sights of the city and get out into the Mongolian countryside. Although Star Wars items were few and far between in Mongolia, we were struck by the wooden dolls and posters showing the traditional Mongolian costumes that greatly resembled Queen Amidala's Senate gown from *The Phantom Menace*. The headdress and gown bear an unmistakable Mongolian influence.



figures arranged in a plastic box. The major find was a set of small metal Star Wars cases from Episode III and Knights of the Old Republic that were designed as cigarette containers. Since these pieces lifted graphics from other licensed Star Wars items, the Coca Cola logo was still prominently displayed on the front of the cigarette case.

Our adventures ended in Shanghai and we reflected on our journey, awed that wherever you go in the world, Star Wars is always nearby. ☺

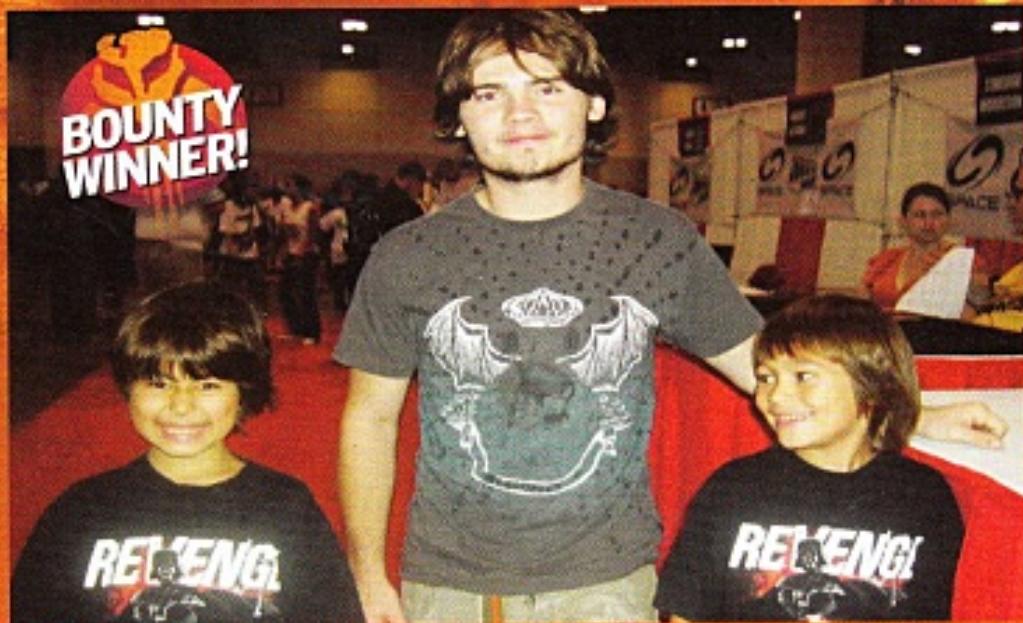
A tip from one of our guidebooks led us to a section of the city containing major wholesale markets for a variety of retail goods. After a lengthy attempt to persuade a Beijing taxi driver to pick up a group of obviously clueless Americans, we found the building serving as a toy wholesale market and walked the aisles in search of elusive Star Wars items.

One vendor had a series of unposeable preschool Star Wars

BOUNTY HUNTERS

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KOTOBUKIYA STAR WARS STATUE WORTH ABOUT \$100.



MEETING JEDI JAKE!

This is a photo of my two sons, Ken, eight, and Max, seven, meeting their hero, Jake Lloyd. As you can see Ken (on the left) is already practicing his Vader snarl! We met Jake at the Toronto Sci-Fi Expo. He was incredibly kind to them.

The first thing they said was, "Hey... you're tall!" and Jake nodded, "Yeah, I get that a lot!" and then Max noticed that Jake was eating sushi for lunch. And Jake, being a wonderful gentleman, offered him a piece!

He posed for several pictures with the boys and was very gracious. Thanks Jake for your kindness to your fans!

James Rice, Toronto, Canada

Not many people get to share sushi with a Sith Lord! A prize is on its way.

HONORABLE BOUNTY HUNTERS....

Ken and Max aren't the only ones who've buddied-up with Star Wars' finest — we also heard from these other intrepid Bounty Hunters:



BONDING WITH BOBA!

I have enclosed a photo that was taken at Celebration IV in Los Angeles in May 2007. After waiting in line for 30 minutes I was honored to meet the original bounty hunter himself, Jeremy Bulloch! He was very gracious in answering my questions, complimented my Boba Fett shirt, and as I was the last person in line we were able to talk for a few minutes. He autographed a Gentle Giant Boba Fett statuette I had bought at the show, and also signed a photo for me stating "To Crystal, You are cool!" It was the highlight of the show.

Crystal Larson, Norwalk, CA.



COOL WITH KENNY!

I was lucky enough to meet Kenny Baker and his ladyfriend at the Carnival of Monsters II convention in Derbyshire, England, last summer. Kenny was friendly and happy to discuss his involvement in the Star Wars saga. At 73 years old he still loves to meet his fans!

Neil Livesey, Lancs, U.K.

MEETING MARK

Standing outside for two hours on a cold Wisconsin winter day was well worth it to meet Mark Hamill. He was at a local Blockbuster promoting the movie Walking Across Egypt, and for a donation to the Make A Wish

Foundation, you could have your picture taken with him. My first picture wasn't great (I had my eyes closed!), so I asked if I could donate again and have another one taken. At first, the promoters said no, but Mark graciously agreed and then proceeded to give me the big squeeze! It was an awesome experience.

Michele Cannariato, by email



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BANTHA TRACKS: BY THE FANS FOR THE FANS

COL.
31

BANTHA TRACKS

BY THE FANS.
FOR THE FANS.

WE BELONG IN A MUSEUM! BANTHA TRACKS FANS ON DISPLAY

IT MIGHT BE A SPIN OFF A FAVORITE LINE FROM *INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE*, BUT BANTHA TRACKS READERS HAVE BEEN BUSY PROVING THAT ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS ARE NOT ALL THAT BELONGS IN MUSEUMS. FANS CONTRIBUTE THEIR TIME TO BENEFIT MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND FIND THAT THEY END UP BECOMING ONE OF THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS.



Crowds gather on the steps for the grand opening of *Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination* at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Darryl Moran of the 501st's Garrison Carida reports that the grand opening attendance levels surpassed those of the record-breaking King Tut exhibit. Photo submitted by Darryl Moran.

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PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

STAR WARS-WHERE SCIENCE MEETS IMAGINATION THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Thanks to Mary Alice Ladd and Darryl Moran.

When this traveling Star Wars exhibit opened in the City of Brotherly Love on February 7, members of both the Rebel and 501st Legions gathered for four days of events that would open the show with a galaxy-sized bang. The popular exhibit describes itself as "...the first exhibition to showcase costume and props from all six Star Wars movies while exploring cutting-edge research and modern technologies that could one day make the fantasy world of Star Wars a reality."

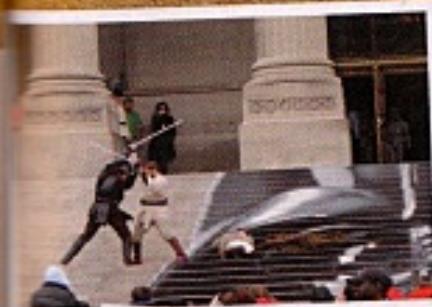
Saturday, February 9 was the grand opening event, and costumed fans attended en masse to make the day memorable for visitors to the galleries. "Seven Garrisons (501st Legion) and seven branches of the Rebel Legion took part," reports Darryl Moran, Public Relations Officer for Garrison Carida. "It was the biggest Star Wars event to hit Philly since the opening of the movies!"

Garrisons of the 501st Legion included Carida, the Empire City Garrison, North East Remnant, Old Line Garrison, Tyranus, Excelsior, and the Midwest Garrison. Mary Alice Ladd, Commanding Officer of the Echo Base Rebel Legion, reports that costumers from Alderaan Base, Canadian, Freedom, Kessel, Terrapin, and the Midwest Base joined Echo Base, as well as droids and wranglers from the R2-D2 Builders' Club.

"Members performed scheduled and impromptu skits, handed out trading cards, temporary tattoos, bracelets, and Star Wars mini action figures, all donated by Legion members," reports Ladd. "They hosted trivia contests with more donated prizes, and members posed for approximately 3,720 photographs with eager museum patrons."

"If anyone was thinking for a moment that Star Wars was fading in popularity, all they had to do was be at the Franklin Institute," adds Moran. "They would have seen they were very, very wrong!"

GET IN TRACKS!



Jason Antonelli (as Obi-Wan) and Bryan Morton (as Anakin), reenact the lightsaber battle on Mustafar for the waiting crowds. Photo submitted by Darryl Moran.



Above: "The overall response and feedback was that we made the fans feel like they were interacting in a complete Star Wars atmosphere," says Moran. He adds that there will be many more events with the 501st and Rebel Legions at the museum, throughout the run that ends on May 4. *Photo submitted by Darryl Moran.*

Left: *Photo by Ruby Pineda*

Below: *Photo submitted by Darryl Moran.*



A group of costumes representing "clans" of the Rebel Legion, taken outside of the Franklin Institute. *Photo by Justin Manning*



Photo submitted by Darryl Moran.

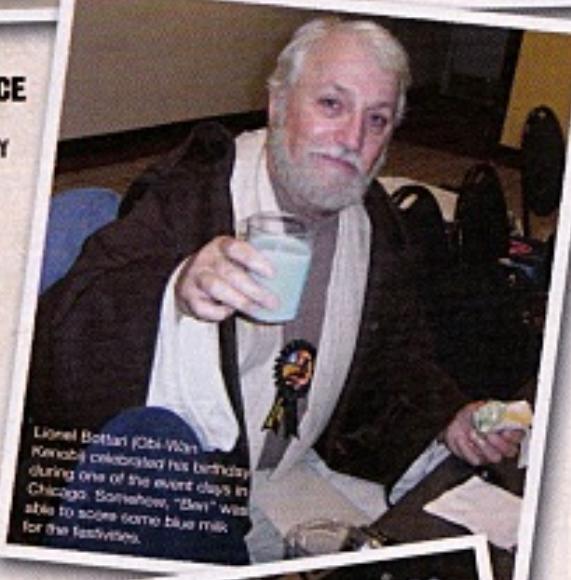
Members of four Star Wars costuming groups volunteered throughout the run of the exhibit in Chicago. *Photo by Phyllis Schulte.*



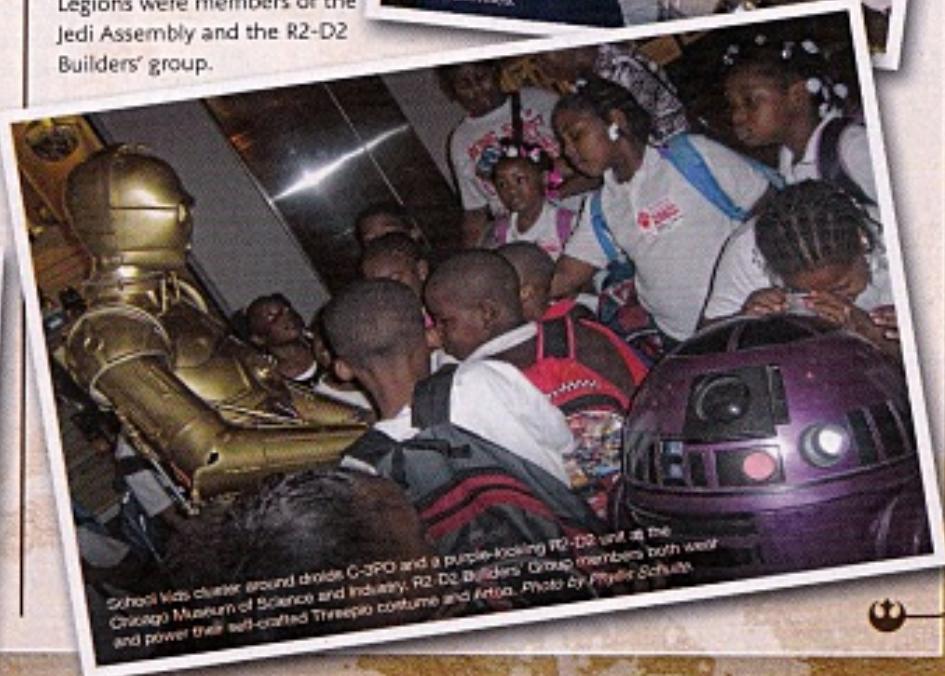
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS STAR WARS-WHERE SCIENCE MEETS IMAGINATION MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

Thanks Phyllis "Seph Gechi" Schulte
Before Philadelphia, Where
Science Meets Imagination
enjoyed a successful run in
Chicago, and there was
enthusiastic support from Star
Wars fans there as well. The
exhibit closed in Chicago on
January 6, but not before the
local fans helped make it a
special event for all.

Joining the 501st and Rebel
Legions were members of the
Jedi Assembly and the R2-D2
Builders' group.



Lionel Bottari (Obi-Wan Kenobi) celebrated his birthday during one of the event days in Chicago. Somehow, "Obi" was able to score some blue milk for the festivities.

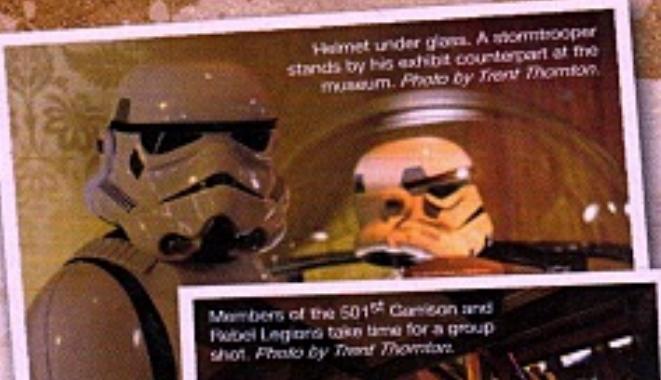


School kids cluster around droids C-3PO and a purple-looking R2-D2 unit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. R2-D2 Builders' Group members built well and power their self-crafted Threepio costume and Artoo. *Photo by Phyllis Schulte.*





BANTHA TRACKS: BY THE FANS FOR THE FANS



Helmet under glass. A stormtrooper stands by his exhibit counterpart at the museum. Photo by Trent Thornton.

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN OUT OF THIS WORLD EXHIBITION WISCONSIN PUBLIC MUSEUM

Thanks to Kathy van Beurden

The Wisconsin Public Museum opening weekend of the "Out of This World" exhibit saw members of the Midwest bases of the 501st and Rebel Legions lend atmosphere and fun.



Members of the 501st Garrison and Rebel Legions take time for a group shot. Photo by Trent Thornton.



Meeting a tiny Yoda at the museum. Photo by Trent Thornton.



Above: Photo by Dean DeAnda



Above: Photo by Matt Tolosa



GET IN TRACKS!

EDITORIAL

BY MARY FRANKLIN



PRESERVING STAR WARS FANS

I've spent a little time thinking about museums, and how they help preserve what is precious to us: our popular culture. Star Wars memorabilia, costumes and props from the movies, traditions like school field trips, and the opportunity for communities to come together and honor a shared history, whether modern or ancient.

Then I thought about our Star Wars community. How do we preserve Star Wars fans for generations to come? Do they need special care and handling? White gloves? Climate control?

It appears, truly, that Star Wars fans are doing a fine job preserving themselves.

We at the Lucasfilm companies are producing more great reasons to be—and stay—a Star Wars fan. George and the crew at Lucasfilm Animation have produced the cool new movie and animated series, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, with beloved characters and soon-to-be-loved new characters, great stories and action, and a new look for television that fans will find thrilling. We've got hot new *Star Wars* video games, like *The Force Unleashed*, that will make fans feel like they are playing inside the saga.

There are new comics and novels brimming with *Star Wars* stories. The new non-fiction books celebrate the entire saga, including everything from behind-the-scenes history to collectibles

to crafts. Collectors and toy fans have plenty to love, too.

That said, the foundation of Star Wars devotion seems to be built as much on shared community as on individual favorite things.

Fans began laying the foundation for a worldwide community back in the days when we thought there would not be any more *Star Wars* movies. Meeting at conventions, talking about *Star Wars* in local sci-fi and collecting clubs—*Star Wars* fans did what they could to keep the flames burning. Once we found each other online we discovered we were part of a worldwide community, and that has been weaving itself together more tightly ever since.

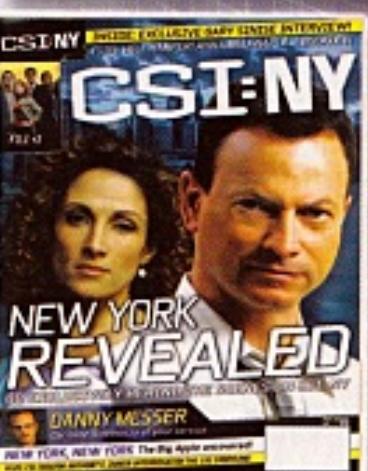
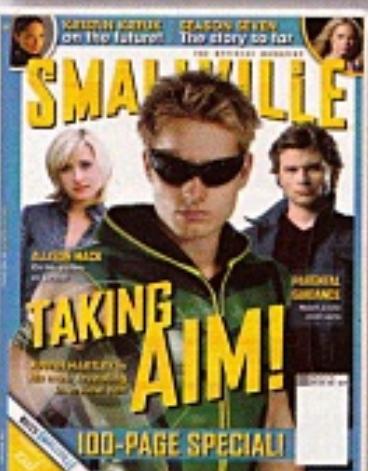
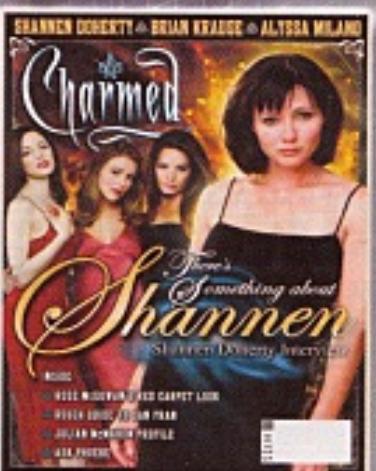
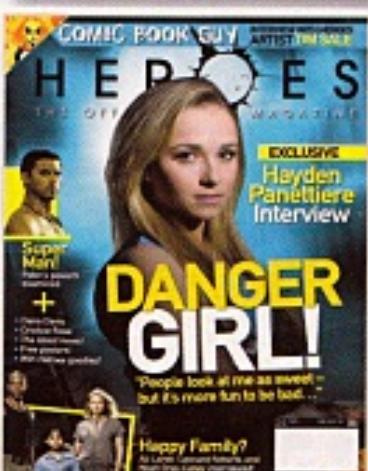
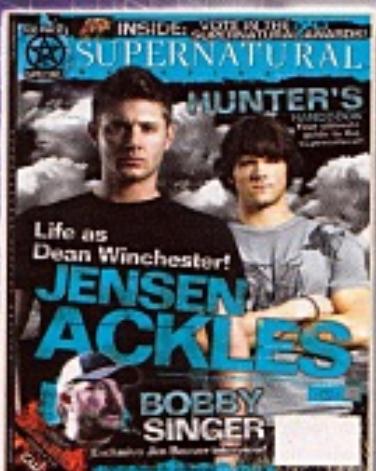
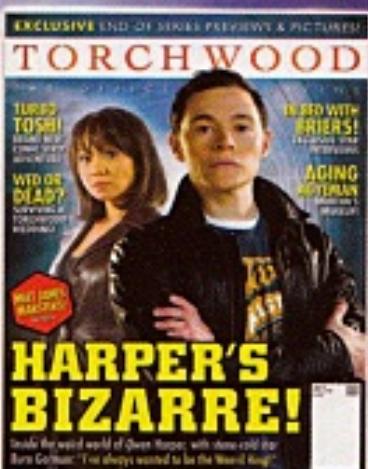
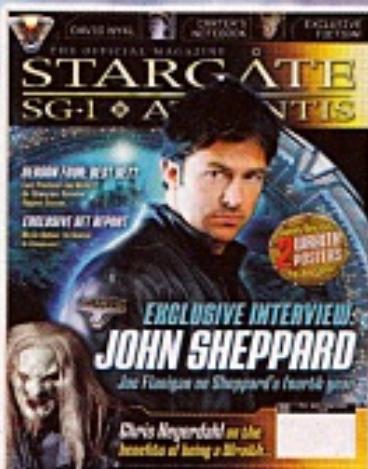
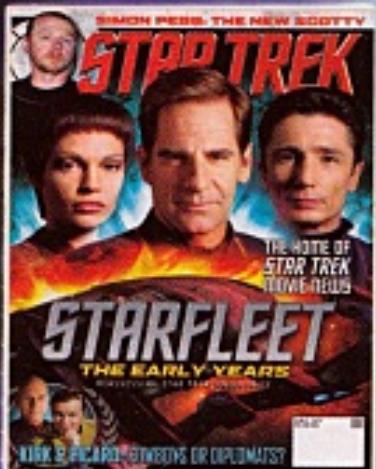
Our fan community is so much more than hanging around waiting for the next *Star Wars* event. Of course we love these, but we have museum openings to dress for, charities to volunteer for, and an array of good deeds to do for our communities. We have new books and comics to discuss, and new costumes to finish before the next benefit or convention.

Between the passion that the worldwide community turns into positive action, and the great new things coming from Lucasfilm, *Star Wars* fans should have a well-curated place in the museum of the world for a long time to come.

Get in tracks!

Mary Franklin
Editor, *Bantha Tracks*

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CLASSIC MOMENT

EPISODE V

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
(DVD CHAPTER 28)



WHAT THEY SAID



Frank Oz on Creating Yoda:
"I was shooting *The Muppet Movie* in Los Angeles, and Jim Henson came to me and said Gary Kurtz had a character..."

I think they asked Jim first—but with running a company and everything he couldn't do it, so he recommended me. He opened up this book and I saw this drawing, and for some reason, I knew what this guy was. I can't tell you why. I just knew it. From then on, I was the one who put all the elements of Yoda together. Although Jim Henson didn't make Yoda, George and he would exchange technology. Wendy Froud helped out a little bit with the character and two other people from Jim's company worked the cables for me."

Irwin Kershner on Directing Yoda:
"Yoda was a nightmare! It was hard for me to believe that we could make this puppet of plastic and rubber, with a lot of wire sticking out of it, and with poles for his ears to go up and down, work."

I was concerned in case we couldn't make it into a living thing. When he's trying to go through Luke's stuff and he tastes the cracker and throws it away, all that was important; everything he does that has a little bit of humor is very important because that was Zen humor for me—he's a little Buddhist!"



LUKE'S TRAINING

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK 1980 [SCRIPT]

On the planet Dagobah, with venerable jedi Master Yoda, Luke Skywalker is learning the ways of the Force, but he's not finding it easy....

LUKE is about to attempt to levitate his crashed X-wing from out of the Dagobah swamp.

LUKE (focusing, quietly): All right, I'll give it a try.
YODA: No! Try not. Do. Or do not. There is no try.

LUKE closes his eyes and concentrates on thinking the ship out. Slowly the X-wing's nose begins to rise above the water. It hovers for a moment and then slides back, disappearing once again.

LUKE (panting heavily):
I can't. It's too big.

YODA: Size matters not. Look at me. Judge me by my size, do you? Min? Mmmmm?

LUKE shakes his head.

YODA: And well you should not. For my ally is

the Force. And a powerful ally it is. Life creates it, makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. Lumious beings are we...

YODA pinches LUKE's shoulder.

YODA (continues): ...Not this crude matter. You must feel the force around you. (Gesturing) Here... between you... me... the tree... the rock... everywhere! Yes, even between the land and the ship.

LUKE (discouraged): You want the impossible. Quietly, YODA turns towards the sunken X-wing. With his eyes closed he gestures with his arm and the ship slowly rises from the swamp, as Artoo beeps in terror and scoots away. The X-wing settles gently on the shore. LUKE stares in astonishment and walks towards YODA.

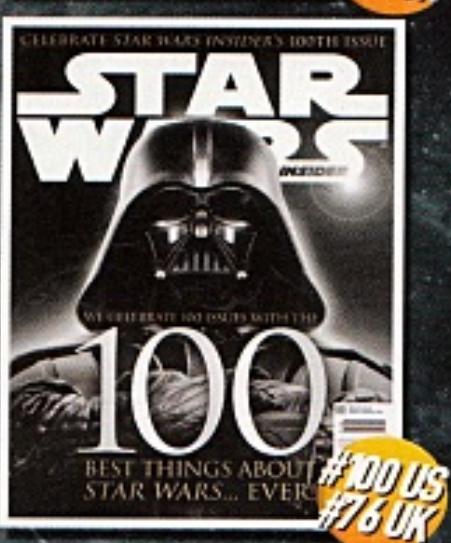
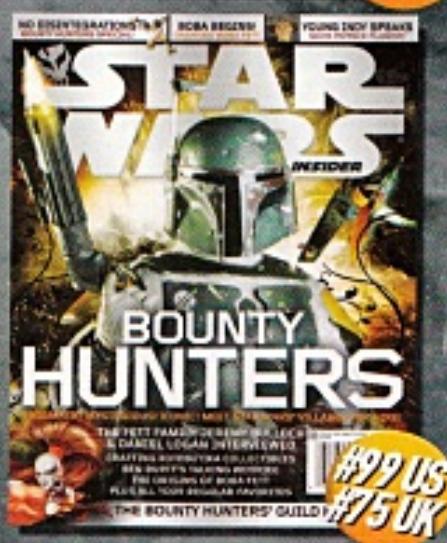
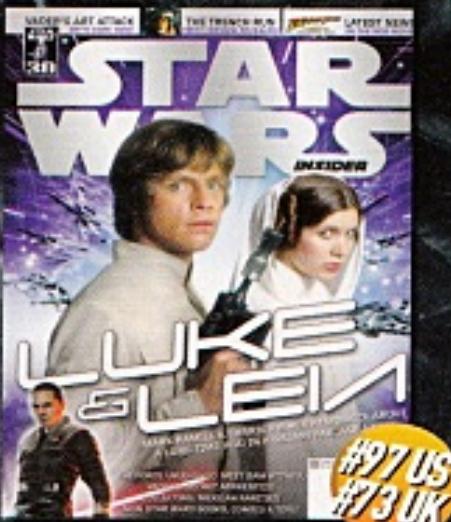
LUKE: I don't... I don't believe it.
YODA: That is why you fail.

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

This is the first major elaboration of the mysterious 'Force' since Obi-Wan's comments in *A New Hope*. Yoda hints at a much more organic basis for the almighty Force, long before the advent of midichlorians. It's a pivotal moment for Luke Skywalker, too. Here he fails a test laid down by a venerable Jedi Master and this leads to him cutting his training short and rushing off to save his friends. It also hints at greater depths to Yoda, depths that would not be explored until the prequel trilogy, especially Episode III.

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Inside the creation of the latest *Star Wars* movie, and the lowdown on the TV show

25 YEARS OF JEDI!

Celebrate the anniversary of the final film of the original *Star Wars* trilogy

CANTINA MANIA!

How one *Star Wars* fan developed an obsession with the cantina creatures

TIPPETT TALKS!

Continuing our special effects series, we talk with stop motion guru Phil Tippett

PLUS ALL YOUR NEW-LOOK DEPARTMENTS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

VERSUS: WHO WINS?

And the winner is... Chewbacca! Intelligence and cunning win out over brute strength and animal instinct every time. Well, almost every time.

COMING TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU
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If you couldn't make it to last month's Jedi-Con in Germany, you've probably been calling in favors to locate one of the exclusive

Shadow Trooper two-packs offered at the show. Well hold on to those favors, because

StarWarsShop just made it a lot easier for fans and collectors on this side of the pond to snag one of these stunning sets.

Outfitted with black and gray armor, three rifles, a pistol, a sinister red pauldron and visors, this Shadow Trooper duo is as intimidating as they come. Tubular packaging

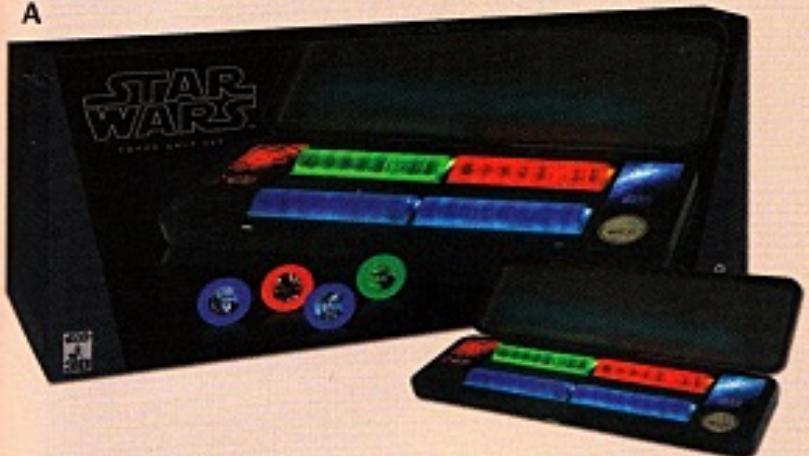
showcases the figures nicely, and will look right at home next to the recent Order 66 series of two-packs.

StarWarsShop is the only place to get the remainder of these German-exclusive sets, so make sure to stop by and pick up yours today!



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B



C



D



E



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B Mimobot Flash Drives 2GB: \$84.99, 4GB: \$124.99

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C R2-D2 Trash Can \$114.99

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Imported from Japan, the R2-D2 trash can operates via a foot pedal that lifts the little droid's "head" to reveal a removable waste receptacle. Stands 23-inches tall.

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E LEGO Star Wars R2-D2 Watch \$29.99

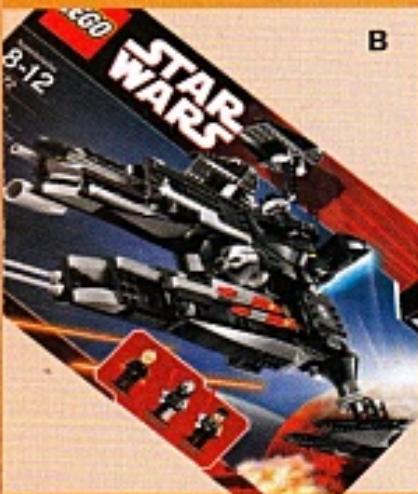
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Watch case and links are made of plastic, and includes a quartz movement, mineral crystal glass, and is water resistant to 50 meters. Includes a LEGO R2-D2 mini-fig and extra links.

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B



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C Stormtrooper Wacky Wobbler \$12.99

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E Star Wars 30th Anniversary Action Figure Case 2008 Wave 2 \$83.99

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The 2008 Action Figure Collection from Hasbro stands with a bang! This case pack includes 12 different action figures, some of which are characters featured in the upcoming game: Star Wars: The Force Unleashed. Each figure comes with a display stand.

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